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At Your Service

TOWN OF AMHERST DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES

In Case of Emergency CALL 911 for Fire, Police, or Ambulance

Accounting	259-3026	Parks, Playgrounds, Swimming Pools	259-3065
Aging Services	259-3060	Planning Department, Planning Board	259-3040
Ambulance-Emergencies Only	911	Police Department:	259-3014
Animal Welfare Officer	478-7084	Chief of Police	259-3016
Assessments	259-3024	Detective Bureau	259-3015
Building Permits, Inspections	259-3030	Records Bureau	259-3016
Cherry Hill Golf Course	256-4071	Rape Hotline	259-3011
Community Services Department	259-3074	Public Works Department	259-3050
Conservation Services	259-3045	Recreation Department	259-3065
Council on Aging, Senior Center	259-3060	Recycling	259-3050
Design Review Board	259-3040	Redevelopment Authority	259-3040
Engineering	259-3050	Refuse Collection	259-3050
Finance Director	259-3022	Schools:	
Fire Department--To Report a Fire	911	Administration	362-1810
For Other Business	259-3082	Crocker Farm	362-1600
General Information	259-3002	Fort River	253-9731
Health Board, Health Department	259-3077	Mark's Meadow	549-1507
Highways, Water, Sewer, Trees	259-3050	Wildwood	362-1400
Housing Authority	256-0206	Regional High School	362-1700
Housing Planner	259-3040	Regional Middle School	362-1850
Human Resources	259-3009	Select Board	259-3001
Human Rights	259-3079	Town Clerk	259-3035
Information Technology	259-3098	Town Manager	259-3002
Leisure Services	259-3065	Treasurer/Collector	259-3020
Libraries: Hours and events	259-3090	Veterans' Services	259-3028
Jones Library	259-3090	Vital Statistics and Records	259-3035
Munson Library	259-3095	Voting, Registration	259-3035
North Amherst Library	259-3099	Wastewater Treatment Plant	259-3050
English as a Second Language	259-3093	Weights and Measures	259-3030
Licenses	259-3035	Wiring Permits	259-3030
Maintenance	259-3039	Zoning Permits	259-3030

DEPARTMENTAL E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Name	E-mail Addresses
Accounting	accounting@amherstma.gov
Assessor's Office	assessors@amherstma.gov
Community Services	community@amherstma.gov
Collector/Treasurer	collector@amherstma.gov
Council on Aging/Senior Center	seniorcenter@amherstma.gov
Conservation	conservation@amherstma.gov
Fire Department	fire@amherstma.gov
Health Department	health@amherstma.gov
Human Resources	humanresource@amherstma.gov
Human Rights	humanrights@amherstma.gov
Information Technology	infotech@amherstma.gov
Inspection Services	inspections@amherstma.gov
Leisure Services	lsse@amherstma.gov
Maintenance	maintenance@amherstma.gov
Parking	police@amherstma.gov
Planning	planning@amherstma.gov
Police	police@amherstma.gov
Public Works	publicworks@amherstma.gov
Select Board	selectboard@amherstma.gov
Town Clerk	townclerk@amherstma.gov
Town Manager	townmanager@amherstma.gov
Veterans' Services	veterans@amherstma.gov

AMHERST FACTS

U.S. SENATOR
Edward M. Kennedy
362 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. SENATOR
John Kerry
315 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
John W. Olver (1st District)
2300 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

STATE SENATOR
Stanley C. Rosenberg
(Hampshire and Franklin District)
Room 320, State House
Boston, MA 02133

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Ellen Story
(3rd Hampshire District)
Room 167, State House
Boston, MA 02133

TAX RATE
\$15.68/\$1,000.00

Area
27.79 square miles

ELEVATION - 313 feet above sea level at Town Hall

LOCATION
Geodetic position of Town Hall:
Latitude - 42 degrees 22'00"
Longitude - 72 degrees 30'30"

ROAD MILEAGE
(not including state highways)
105.56 Miles

POPULATION - 34,874 (source: 2000 Federal Census)

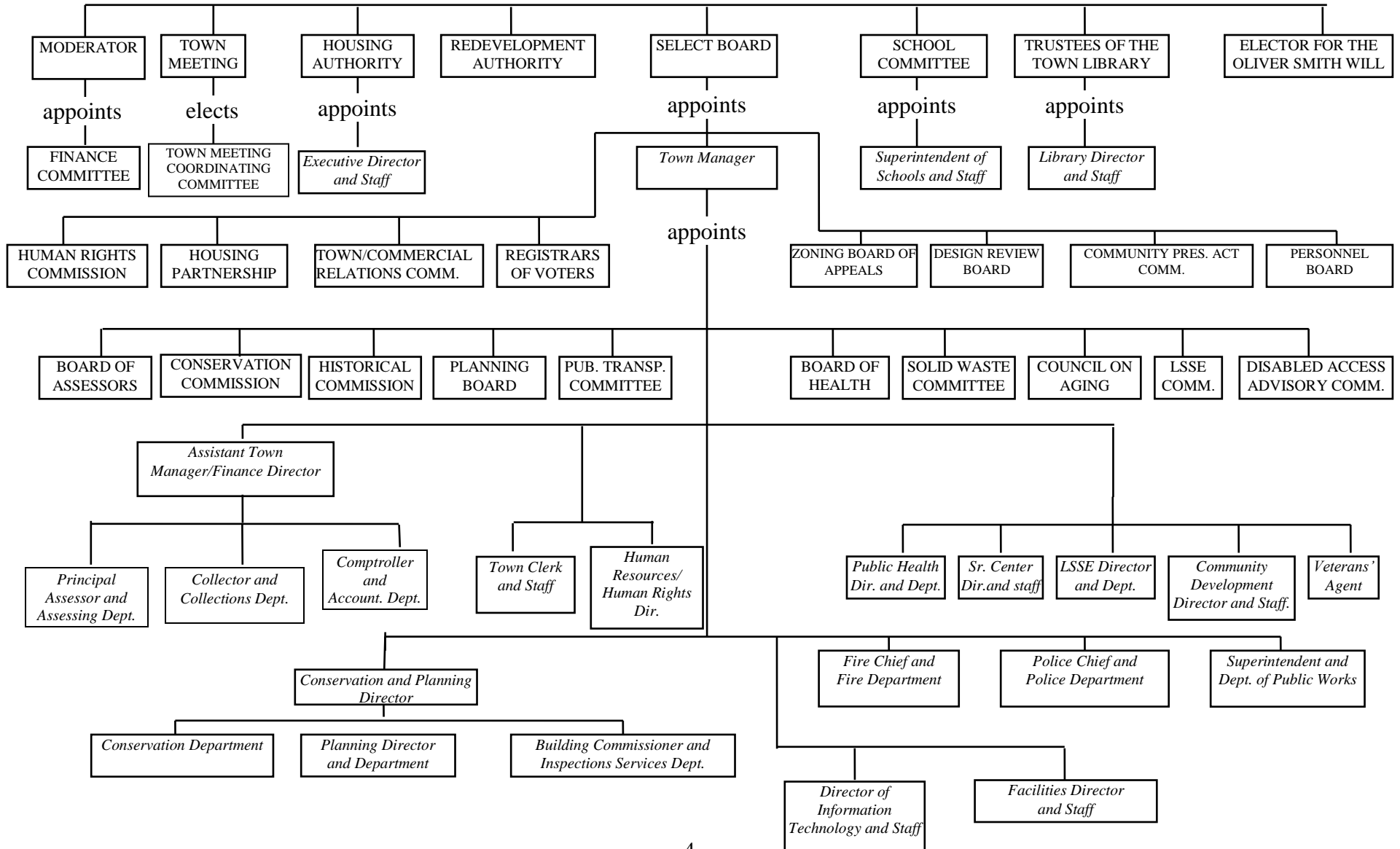
**TOWN OF AMHERST
ORGANIZATION CHART (1/05)**

Staff

ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS,
COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

VOTERS

elected



KEY:

+ Retired
 ++ Laid Off
 * Resigned
 ** Terminated

 @
 @@

Leave of Absence
 Transferred
 Position Eliminated

APPOINTED MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES**ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE****SELECT BOARD**

Arcamo, Judith
 @Lass, Elizabeth

Administrative Assistant
 Administrative Assistant

TOWN MANAGER

Laurence R. Shaffer
 *Karpinski, Joyce
 Weston, Gail
 Seaman, Katherine E.

Town Manager
 Assistant to the Town Manager
 Assistant to the Town Manager
 Administrative Assistant

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

John A. Musante
 Boucher, Cheryl A. ★★

Finance Director/Treasurer
 Asst. Treasurer

ACCOUNTING

Sonia R. Aldrich ★★
 Bowser, Holly
 Fleurent, Theresa M.
 Littmann, Kim

Comptroller
 Asst. to the Accountant
 Payroll & Benefits Coordinator
 Customer Service Assistant II

COLLECTOR

Claire E. McGinnis
 Loven, Jennifer

Collector
 Asst. Collector

Customer Service Assistants

Cary, Cynthia
 @Pollard, Kathleen M.

Goodhind, Susan
 Ricker, Melissa

ASSESSORS

David Burgess

Principal Assessor

Administrative Assistants

Bouthilette-Sarna, Theresa ★

Turati, Lori

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

Kristopher Pacunas, Sr.
 Soucie, David
 Hannon, Sean
 Olkin, Michael
 Racca, Maria R.
 Dudkiewicz, Richard

Director
 Asst. Dir./Network Administrator
 Network Administrator
 GIS Administrator
 Financial Analyst
 Network Systems Specialist

HUMAN RIGHTS & RESOURCES

Eunice Torres

Director

TOWN CLERK

Sandra J. Burgess.
 Audette, Susan
 Olanyk, Patricia J.

Town Clerk
 Assistant Town Clerk
 Customer Service Assistant

PUBLIC SAFETY**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Keith E. Hoyle
 West-Davis, Vera

Chief
 Management Assistant II

Assistant Chiefs

Stromgren, Lindsay E. ★★ Zlogar, Michael V.

Captains

Briere, Roland D.
 Johnson, James B.
 McKay, Donald R.
 Olmstead, Jeffrey D.
 Sterling, Brian C.

+Childs, Gary A.
 Goodhind, Timothy S.
 Miner, David P. ★★
 Sell, Jennifer ★

Firefighters

Adair, Robert W. Jr. ★★
 Bennett, David
 Chandler, Steven A., Jr.
 Cooney, John T.
 Doherty, Charles
 Flynn, Gary M.
 Gaughan, Stephen P.
 Gillispie, George
 Gwyther, Ryan R.
 Kennedy, John P.
 Martell, David
 +Olmstead, Heidi
 Roe, Sarah M.
 Ryczek, Ronald E.
 Singh, Jayant D.
 Szewczynski, Michael
 Theilman, Paul ★

Bascomb, Christopher
 Burgess, Nathanael R.
 Clooney, David
 Dion, David J.
 Dunn, William T.
 Frailey, Reed M.
 Gianetti, Lee P. ★
 Goodhind, Christopher
 Ingram, John S.
 Klaus, William B. Jr.
 Moriarty, Monica E.
 Parr, Jeffrey F.
 Roy, Michael
 Shanley, Joshua
 Snowden, James
 Tebo, Lawrence
 Valle, Thomas L.

CALL FORCE

Mientka, Edward

Deputy Chief

Captains

Gladu, Kevin

*Willey, Ryan

Lieutenants

Hawkins, Michael
 Lindberg, Kristen A.

Liberatore, Marc

Firefighters

Arbour, Bruce T.
 Burgess, Andrew
 Hart, John
 Kelly, Katherine E.
 Maguire, Steven
 McLinden, Matthew
 Prather, Christopher
 Venman, Peter
 Webster, William B.

Broder, Samuel
 *Choquette, Michelle
 Horan, Christopher
 Kinchla, John W.
 McGovern, Meghan
 Pollack, David
 Rogue, Jacabo
 Wayne, Jacob
 *Welch, Andrew

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Charles L. Scherpa
 Rocha, Maryann
 Glover, William P.
 Jolie, Joy

Chief
 Administrative Assistant
 Records/Systems Analyst
 Records Clerk

Captains
Kent, Michael R. Sullivan, Timothy M. Jr.

Lieutenants
Gundersen, Jennifer A. Livingstone, Scott P. ★★★★★
O'Connor, Robert J. Young, Ronald A.

Sergeants
Daly, Brian C. ★ Knightly, David R.
Menard, William N. Millar, Jerry
Nelson, Charles H. Pronovost, Christopher G.
Sullivan, Michael D. ★★★★★

Patrol Officers
Arocho, Jesus Attesi, Megan L.
Batchelor, Frank W. Bonnayer, Jeannine
Chudzik, John M. Corsetti, Dominick
Damouras, James A. Epiceno, Sabino S.
Feliciano, Felipe Forcum, Michael
Foster, David W. Gallagher, Scott
Geary, Douglas J. Guzik, Gary W.
Humber, Marcus A. Jackson, Glenn M.
Johnson, Brian ★ Johnson, Michael A.
Knightly, Christina Lamoureux, Derick B.
Lang, Todd S. Laramée, William R.
Lopez, Janet MacLean, Richard
Matusko, Brian T. Molin, Yvonne
Newcomb, Linda Reardon, Jamie P.
Rhoades, David A. Russell, Jonathan E.
Seymour, Brandon M. Tellier, Ryan N.
Thurston, Scott C. Ting, Gabriel ★
Tivnan, Jared R. Wise, Gregory D.

ANIMAL WELFARE
Carol Hepburn Animal Welfare Officer

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
Rita K. Burke Director

Emergency Dispatchers
Alvaro, Jessica Brunelle, Christine
Chudzik, Elizabeth Cicia, Joshua
Curtin, Michael Del Pozzo, Scott
Guzik, Jennifer M. Kinnas, Carly
**Misiazek, Ann L. Rushford, Jason
Sharp, Janet M. Worthley, William B.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT
Enforcement Officers
Hrasna, Malissa MacMahon, Thomas
Wheeler, Willie J.

MAINTENANCE/CUSTODIAL STAFF
Building Supervisors
Fuller, Richard A. Lemek, Raymond
Mosakewicz, James K.

Building Assistants
Bailey, Nancy P. #Chalmers, Thomas P.
Cormier, Debra R. Decker, Mary G.
Thun, Robert

PLANNING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
M. David Ziomek Conservation & Planning Director
Lass, Elizabeth ★ Administrative Assistant

Ciccarello, Stephanie Wetlands Technician
Hutcheson, Douglas S. Land Manager
McKinnon, David C. Asst. Land Manager

INSPECTION SERVICES
Bonita Weeks Building Commissioner
*Snow, Mark Asst. Building Commissioner
Lynch, Lorraine Administrative Assistant
Waskiewicz, David Building Inspector
French, Andrew K. Plumbing Inspector
Staples, George W. Jr. Gas Inspector

Wiring Inspectors
Choiniere, Paul E. Hartwell, Frederic P.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Tucker, Jonathan Planning Director
la Cour, Niels ★ Senior Planner
Brestrup, Christine M. Associate Planner
Krzanowski, Susan T. Management Assistant I

COMMUNITY SERVICES

COUNCIL ON AGING
Pagano, Nancy Senior Center Director
Erman, Karen Management Assistant II
Plante, Maura E. Congregate Housing Coordinator
Barnett, Marlene ★★ Program Coordinator

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Epi Bodhi Health Director
Federman, Julie Nurse
Srey, Lauren Outreach Worker
Zarozinski, David Sanitarian
Dion, Thomas H. Health Inspector
Drake, Kathryn Management Assistant
Taylor, Ruth Secretary II

COMMUNITY SERVICES
Roy Rosenblatt ★★ Community Services Director

VETERANS' SERVICES
+Roderick Raubeson Veterans' Agent & Graves Officer
Kathleen M. Pollard Veterans' Agent & Graves Officer

LEISURE SERVICES & SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION
Linda L. Chalfant Director
Kushi, Laurel Administrative Assistant

Program Directors
Bilz, Barbara J. Brandts, John R.
*Ezzell, Celinda Rogers, Carol

Program Assistants
Lecuire, Anastasia *Johnston, Kristen B.

Management Assistants
Cumps, Erika Dumpson, Michael

Customer Service Assistants
Desmarais, Patrice Roy, Donna

CHERRY HILL GOLF COURSE
*Daniel Engstrom Turf Manager

JONES LIBRARY

Bonnie Isman ★★★★★ Library Director
 Radosh, Sondra Asst. Director
 Kimball, Tevis Curator: Special Collections
 Girshman, Beth ★★★★★ Adult Services Librarian
 Anaya, Amy Circulation Librarian
 Spiegel, Marjorie N. North Amherst Librarian
 Hugus, Susan ★★★★★ Munson Memorial Librarian
 Platt, Carolyn B. ★★ Cataloger
 Allan, Henry Computer Technician
 Swift, Tina ★★ Management Assistant II
 Weintraub, Lynne ESL Coordinator
 Rothberg, Seth Circulation Supervisor
 Verts, Catherine Audiovisual Specialist
 Boyle, Cathy Special Collections Specialist
 Imbimbo, John E. Building Maint. Supervisor
 Grabigel, Bryan R. Clerk/Receptionist

Reference Librarians

Loomis, Rosemary Ryan, Janet L.

Library Assistants

Atteridge, Theresa I. Borezo, Patrick M.
 Brinkerhoff, Sylvia Eve, Tomi
 Hurwitz, Ralph Lincoln, Judith
 Pyfrom, Joan ★ Stokes, Lace
 White, Christine H.

Building Maint. Assistants

Faith, Colin Otero, Miguel A.

PUBLIC WORKS

ADMINISTRATION

Guilford B. Mooring, II Superintendent of Public Works
 Pariseau, Robert Water Resources Director
 Skeels, Jason Town Engineer
 Dethier, Paul G. Jr. Civil Engineer
 Ehle, Eric J. Engineering Technician
 Marshall, Elizabeth L. Utilities Technician
 Moore, Michael K. Electrician
 McNamee, Cheryl A. ★★★★★ Assistant to the Superintendent
 Murphy, Nancy M. Management Assistant II

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Raskevitz, Paul D. Division Supervisor
 MacDonald, Robert Mechanic
 Willis, Rodney W. Mechanic

HIGHWAY DIVISION

+Field, John Division Director
 Loven, Matthias ★★★★★ Division Director
 Isabelle, Kenneth Crew Supervisor III
 Longto, Keith Crew Supervisor II
 Banks, Timothy Roadway Sign & Paint Technician
 Waterman, Thomas R. Maintenance Worker
 Suzuki, Yasuaki T. Laborer

Equipment Operators

Boucher, John Drake, Charles III
 Stacy, Gary L. Woynar, Mark

Skilled Laborer/Truck Drivers

Barton, Robin D. Chmiel, Kenneth
 Gormely, Patrick M. Gray, Robert
 @Sampson, Kevin Tidlund, Janice

LANDFILL AND RECYCLING

Telega, Steven Facilities Supervisor
 O'Brien, Timothy Equipment Operator
 Bardwell, Erik Skilled Laborer/Truck Driver

PARKS AND COMMONS

Orrell, David Crew Supervisor III
 Zakaitis, Robert Jr. Maintenance Worker
 Kosloski, Todd ★ Maintenance Worker
 Bardwell, Jason Skilled Laborer/Truck Driver
 Feltovic, Stephen Laborer

TREE CARE AND PEST CONTROL

LaFountain, Daniel Crew Supervisor II
 *Haber, Barry Tree Maintenance Worker
 Mitchell, Stanley Laborer

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT & PUMPING STATION

Laford, James Division Director
 Felton, Frederick C. ★★ Mechanic/Supervisor
 Dunbar, Linda Lab Technician
 Knightly, Brian Maintenance Worker

Crew Supervisor II

Jordan, James Klimczyk, Duane ★★★★★

Mechanics

Coombs, Russell Crowley, John L.

Plant Operators

Burrows, Glenn Miraglia, Joseph J.
 Ritter, Harry ★★ Young, James W.

WATER DIVISION

Osborne, Jeffrey C. Division Director
 @Feltovic, Stephen Division Supervisor
 Sampson, Kevin Division Supervisor
 Luippold, Thomas ★★ Treatment Operator II
 Hagar, Darryl ★★ Mechanic
 Carlson, Peter Skilled Laborer/Truck Driver
 *Joyce, Gregory Meter Reader

Maintenance Workers

Bartus, Kenneth Bowser, Jeffrey

Treatment Operators

Call, Stephen Orrell, Robert J.
 Szwed, Michael

★ Denotes recognition of 10 years of service.
 ★★ Denotes recognition of 15 years of service.
 ★★★ Denotes recognition of 20 years of service.
 ★★★★ Denotes recognition of 25 years of service.
 ★★★★★ Denotes recognition of 30 years of service.
 ★★★★★★ Denotes recognition of 35 years of service.

<u>TOWN OF AMHERST COMMITTEES AND BOARDS</u> Fiscal Year 2007
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KEY:

SB = Select Board Appointment
 TM = Town Manager Appointment
 M = Moderator Appointment
 CC = Conservation Commission Appointment
 ALT = Alternate
 C = Chair

D = Deceased
 G-A = Governor Appointee
 R = Resigned
 Ret = Retired
 TC = Term Completion
 V-C = Vice- Chair

ELECTED OFFICIALS

	<u>Elected</u>	<u>Expires</u>		<u>Elected</u>	<u>Expires</u>
<u>Amherst School Committee</u>			<u>Select Board</u>		
Kathleen Anderson	2007	2010	Anne Awad	2000	2009
Alisa Brewer (R)	2002	2008	Alisa Brewer	2007	2010
Elaine Brighty (VC)	1999	2009	Hwei-Ling Greeney	2005	2008
Andrew Churchill (C)	2004	2010	Rob Kusner	2005	2008
Sonia Correa Pope	2005	2009	Gerry Weiss (C)	2004	2010
Chrystel Romero	2007	2008	<u>Town Meeting Coordinating Committee</u>		
<u>Elector, Oliver Smith Will</u>			Harry O. Brooks (VC)		2004
David Farnham	1994	2008	Philip Jackson		2006
<u>Housing Authority</u>			Stephanie O'Keeffe		2006
Judith Brooks	1994	2010	Margaret Roberts (C)		2005
Jean Haggerty	2006	2011	Otto Stein		2004
Peter Jessop	1999	2009	Merrylees Turner		2005
Joan Ross Logan (C)	1981	2012	<u>APPOINTED POSITIONS</u>		
Stephan Rogers (G-A)	2002	2008	<u>Agricultural Commission (formerly Amherst Farm Committee (SB))</u>		
<u>Jones Library Trustees</u>			<i>Staff Liaison: D. Ziomek</i>		
Nonny Burack	2007	2010	Leslie Cox (R)		2007
Ann Grose	2003	2009	Ruth Hazzard (C)		2007
Patricia Holland	2005	2008	Linda Hess		2007
Anita Page	2002	2008	John Ingram (TC)		2007
Merrylees Turner	2003	2009	Daniel Kaplan (R)		2007
Kathleen Wang (Pres)	2004	2010	Susan Pynchon		2007
<u>Moderator</u>			Bob Saul		2007
Harrison Gregg	1994	2008	Sarah Swartz		2007
<u>Redevelopment Authority</u>			Patricia Wagner		2007
<i>Staff Liaison: J. Tucker</i>			<u>Amherst Cultural Council (SB)</u>		
Nancy Gordon	2005	2008	<i>Staff Liaison: S. Radosh</i>		
Larry Kelley	2007	2012	Anne Burton		2005
Jeanne Traester (G-A)	2006	2010	Edith Byron (C)		2004
Frances VanTreese	1994	2009	Kathleen Fisher (R)		2005
			Ekaterina Ites		2005
			Laurie Nisonoff		2006
			Masha Rudman (R)		2005
			Howard Sonoda (TC)		2001
			Ann Woodbridge		2006

<u>Appointed</u>	
Audit Committee (TM)	
<i>Staff Liaison: J. Musante, S. Aldrich</i>	
Anne Awad	2005
Willis Bridegam	2005
Elaine Brighty	2005
John Fox	2006
Brian Morton	2005

Amherst/La Paz Centro, Nicaragua Sister City Committee (SB)

Cynthia Asebrook	2001
Jeannie Jones	1999
Charles Milch	2004
Nancy Milch	2004
Kathleen Mullin	2006
Walter Mullin	2006
Anne Stanek (C)	2004
Edward Stanek	2004

Aquifer Protection Committee (TM)

<i>Staff Liaison: B. Pariseau, G. Mooring</i>	
Stephen Mabee (C)	1999
W. Jesse Schwalbaum	1999
Lyons Witten (C)	1999

Assessors, Board of (TM)

<i>Staff Liaison: D. Burgess</i>	
Jane Kaufman-Balis	2004
Connie Kruger	2004
Donald Wise	2006

Cherry Hill Advisory Committee (TM)

<i>Staff Liaison: Musante, Chalfant, Ziomek</i>	
Youssef Fadel	2002

Community Development Committee (SB)

<i>Staff Liaison: Rosenblatt</i>	
Paulette Brooks	2006
Calvin Brower (TC)	2006
Mary Jane Laus (TC)	2006
Jana McClure	2007
Tamara Rutland Mills	2006
Claude Tellier	2006
Ruth Wade (R)	2006

Appointed
Community Preservation Act Committee (SB)

<i>Staff Liaison: J. Musante</i>	
Elisa Campbell (TC)	2001
Audrey Child (TC)	2001
Kathleen Ford (R)	2001
Roderick Francis (TC)	2005
Peter Jessop	2001
Edith Nye MacMullen	2005
Vladimir Morales	2006
Vincent O'Connor	2005
Nicki Robb	2003
Stan Ziomek (TC)	2006

Comprehensive Planning Commission (SB)

<i>Staff Liaison: J. Tucker, N. la Cour</i>	
Harvey Allen	2006
James Bess	2006
Marilyn Blaustein	2005
Alisa Brewer (R)	2005
Cyrus Cox	2005
Robert Crowner	2006
Yuri Friman	2006
William Gillen	2005
Bruce Griffin (R)	2005
Ben Grosscup (R)	2006
Jean Haggerty (R)	2005
Rosemary Kofler	2006
Douglas Kohl	2002
Joanne Levenson	2001
Eric Nakajima (C)	2006
James Oldham	2005
Larry Orloff	2006
Anita Page	2005
Barry Roberts	2006
Alan Root	2002
Carol Rothery	2006
Bob Saul	2006
Mary Scipioni (R)	2004
Claude Tellier	2006
James Wald	2004
Mary Wentworth	2007
Walter Wolnik	2004
Stan Ziomek	2005
Cheryl Zoll (VC)	2006

Conservation Commission (TM)

<i>Staff Liaison: D. Ziomek</i>	
Harvey Allen	2006
Liv Baker	2006
John Gerber (C)	2002
Daniel Kaplan	2006
Eleanor Manire-Gatti	2002
Nicki Robb	2003
Otto Stein	2002

Appointed

Council on Aging (TM)

Staff Liaison: N. Pagano

Daniel Clapp	2006
Elsie Fetterman	2005
Janet Gorth	2007
Doris Holden	2004
Edward Kaler (R)	2006
Rosemary Kofler	2005
Thomas McAuley	2005
Barbara Sutherland (C)	2004
Susan Whitbourne (TC)	2004
David Yaukey	2006

Council on Youth (SB)

Staff Liaison: R. Rosenblatt

Robert Adair (TC)	2005
Michael Katz	2004
Elaine Puleo	2004

Design Review Board (SB)

Staff Liaison: J. Tucker

Kathleen Fisher	2006
Anita Licis	2005
Ludmila Pavlova-Gillham (TC)	2001

Disability Access Advisory Committee (TM)

Staff Liaison: E. Torres

Reginald Andrade	2007
Seren Derin	2007
Bernadette Hait	2007
Becky Hurwitz	2001
Pamela Ledoux (C)	2003
James MacRostie	2006
Madeline Peters	2004
Jean Smyser	2001

Eastern Hampshire Regional Refuse District

Board of Supervisors (SB)

Paul Rothery	1994
Stanley Ziomek	1995

Dormant

Economic Development and Industrial Corporation

Staff Liaison: J. Tucker

Dormant

Appointed

Electricity Deregulation Study Committee (SB)

Staff Liaison:

Andrew Bellak	2005
Bart Bouricius	2005
Jim Brassord	2005
Nancy Gordon	2005
Craig Meadows (TC)	2005

Emergency Homeless Task Force (SB)

Staff Liaison:

Mary Ann Cofrin (TC)	2006
Terry Forrest (TC)	2007
Nancy Gregg (TC)	2006
Joanne Levenson (TC)	2006
Stanley Maron (TC)	2007
Kenneth Mosakowski (D)	2006
Laura Reichsman (TC)	2006
Flo Stern (TC)	2006

Fence Viewer (TM)

Robert Romer	1984
--------------	------

Field Driver (TM)

Carol Hepburn	2003
---------------	------

Finance Committee (M)

Staff Liaison: J. Musante

Marilyn Blaustein	2003
Paul Bobrowski	2006
Alice Carlozzi	1993
Kay Moran (VC)	2004
Brian Morton (C)	1996
Douglas Slaughter	2006
Andrew Steinberg	2005

Fire Station Study Committee (TM)

Staff Liaison: K. Hoyle

DORMANT

Health, Board of (TM)

Staff Liaison : E. Bodhi

Nancy DiMattio (C)	2004
Sarina Ergas (R)	2005
Ellen Leahy-Pile	2003
Sandra Sulsky	2004
Alan Weiner	2005

<u>Appointed</u>	
<u>Historical Commission (TM)</u>	
<i>Staff Liaison: J. Tucker</i>	
Gai Carpenter	2005
Lyle Denit	2005
Lynda Faye	2006
Michael Hanke	2006
Edith Nye MacMullen (C) (TC)	2001
Elizabeth Sharpe	2006
James Wald (VC)	2002

Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee (SB)

<i>Staff Liaison: R. Rosenblatt</i>	
Nancy Gregg (C)	2003
Jean Haggerty	2005
Christopher Hoffmann	2005
Eric Nakajima	2005
Flo Stern	2005
Claude Tellier	2004
Franklin Wells	2002

Human Rights Commission (SB)

<i>Staff Liaison: E. Torres</i>	
Magda Ahmed (VC)	2003
Kathleen Anderson	2006
Elizabeth Bragg (ARHS Student) (TC)	2005
Samia Elshallali	2003
Frank Gatti	2002
Dorothy Merriam (TC)	2004
Lois Raj	2006
Elena Rossen (TC)	2006
Reynolds Winslow (C)	1999

Kanegasaki Sister City Committee (SB)

<i>Staff Liaison: N. Pagano</i>	
Nancy Bess	2004
Denise Boyd	2004
Stephanie Joyce	2006
Alex Kent (TC)	2001
Byron Koh (C)	1999
Helen MacMellon	2006
Eric Nakajima (R)	2006
Carolyn Platt	2003
Yuko Takahashi	2006

LSSE Commission (TM)

<i>Staff Liaison: L. Chalfant</i>	
Peter Blier	2004
Judy Brooks	2005
James Patulak	2005
Afranio Torres Neto	2005
Stan Ziomek	2001

<u>Appointed</u>	
<u>Munson Memorial Building Trustees (TM)</u>	
<i>Staff Liaison:</i>	
Johannes Brongers	2003
Aaron Hayden	2005
Claudia O'Brien	2001

Parking Commission (SB)

<i>Staff Liaison: J. Tucker</i>	
Dormant	

Personnel Board (SB)

<i>Staff Liaison: K. Zlogar</i>	
Arnold Alper (TC)	2004
D. Anthony Butterfield	2006
Flo Stern (C)	2004
Kathleen Wang	2004

Planning Board (TM)

<i>Staff Liaison: J. Tucker</i>	
Kathleen Anderson	2006
Roderick Francis (R)	2005
Aaron Hayden (C)	2003
Richard Howland	2006
Carl Mailler (TC)	2006
Susan Pynchon	2006
Leandro Rivera (R)	2005
Jonathan Shefftz	2007
Eduardo Suarez	2006

Public Art Commission (SB)

<i>Staff Liaison: S. Radosh</i>	
Candace Bradbury-Carlin	2007
Sylvia Cuomo	2007
Carl Erikson	2005
Gretchen Fox (R)	2002
Harriet Goodwin	2005
Mary McCarthy	2006
Terry Rooney (C)	2004
Lawrence Siddall	2005

Public Transportation (SB)

<i>Staff Liaison: G. Mooring, M. Kent</i>	
Richard Alcorn (TC)	2004
Jane Ashby (VC)	2006
Calvin Brower	2005
Karen Kowles	2006
Andrew Melnechuk	2006
Frances VanTreese	2007
Helene Ver Eecke	2006
Franklin Wells (C)	2004
Ted White	2004
Mark Zinan	2006

Appointed

Public Works Committee (SB)

Staff Liaison: G. Mooring

Michael Cann	1998
Robert Crowner (C)	2004
Donald George	2006
Charles Moran	2006
Vincent O'Connor	2004
Steve Puffer	1989

**Recycling & Refuse Management Comm
formerly Solid Waste Committee (TM)**

Staff Liaison: G. Mooring

Harvey Allen	2001
Clare Bertrand	2004
Janet Brown	2006
Pat Church (C)	1997
Marianne Lorenzelli (TC)	2001
Lucy McMurrer	2006
Margaret Vickery	2003

Registrar of Voters (SB)

Staff Liaison: S. Burgess

Harry Oldham Brooks	2006
Sandra Burgess	2006
Barbara Fenton	2005
Gladys Rodriguez	1995

Town/Commercial Relations Committee (SB)

Staff Liaison: J. Tucker

Jane Ashby (R)	2006
Leslie Arriola	2006
Jeffrey Blaustein	2006
Ira Bryck (VC)	2006
Gloria Chang-Wade (TC)	2005
Leigh Dunlap	2006
Peter Grandonico, Jr.	2002
Gerald Jolly (TC)	2001
Donna Kelley	2007
Mark Parent (C)	2002
Barry Roberts	2006

Zoning Board of Appeals (SB)

Staff Liaison: C. Brestrup

Jane Ashby (Assoc)	2005
Barbara Ford (Full 2006)	2003
Russell Frank (Assoc)	2005
Hilda Greenbaum (Assoc)	2005
Edward Rising (Full 2004)	2002
Thomas Simpson (Full 2003)	2000
Albert Woodhull (Assoc)	2006

Appointed

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Eastern Valley Water Protection Committee

Guilford Mooring	2002
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Pioneer Valley Joint Transportation Committee

Guilford Mooring	2002
Jason Skeels	2002

Public Shade Tree Committee (CC)

Staff Liaison: D. Ziomek

Robert Erwin	2004
William Hutchinson	1997
H. Dennis Ryan	2006
Alan Snow (C) (TC)	1999
Otto Stein	2006

Tree Warden (TM)

Staff Liaison:

Alan Snow	2007
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<u>Constables (TM)</u>	<u>Appointed</u>		<u>Appointed</u>
James A. Broussard	2002	Thomas J. O'Connor	2002
Mary Commager	1991	Kelly P. Olanyk	2002
Brian C. Daly	2005	Gregory Oravec	2002
Samuel Dean	2004	Mark Perez	1999
Michael J. Dubuc	2000	Janice Peterman	1999
Mitchell Dzwonkoski	1998	Christopher Pronovost	1994
Betty J. Gagnon	1998	Juan Rios	2005
Leonard Grundstrom	2005	Thomas W. Robert	2002
Jennifer A. Gunderson	2001	James E. Roberts, III	2202
Carol Hepburn	2000	Donald S. Robinson, Jr.	2002
Malissa J. Hrasna	2007	Joseph Rocasah	2002
James Keedy	1995	Michael S. Ross	2002
Winthrop Kellogg	2002	Charles Scherpa	1987
Michael Kent	1990	Jeffrey Shea	2005
David Knightly, Jr.	2000	Wilbur Shumway	1987
Joseph Lafond	2005	Frederick C. D. Smead	2000
Matthew Lee	2005	Theodore Smigiel	2002
Michael F. Lenart	2005	Mark A. Snow	2003
Eddie W. Leverett	2002	Michael D. Sullivan	1993
Scott Livingstone	1989	Timothy M. Sullivan	1991
Matthew Malo	2002	Kelson Ting	2005
James E. McCarthy	2002	David Trompke	2005
Llewellyn McKenzie	2005	John B. Walsh	2000
Thomas MacMahon	2007	Bonita J. Weeks	2003
William N. Menard	2004	Mark Wesoloski	2004
Wilfred Merullo	2005	Willie J. Wheeler	1999
Joseph F. Mieczkowski	2002	Walter J. Wysocki	1995
Jerry Millar	1997	Ronald A. Young	1997
Charles H. Nelson, III	2000	Victor J. Zumbruski	2000
Robert O'Connor	1989		



Town of Amherst
Committee Recognition

The Town of Amherst relies on the energy and commitment of those citizens who participate each year on the many boards and committees that are an integral part of our form of government. These citizens volunteer their time and expertise to help improve the quality of life in our community. The Town is indeed fortunate to be able to depend on the hard work and dedication of its committee members. The following citizens have completed their service of at least two full, three-year terms

SELECT BOARD, TOWN MANAGER AND MODERATOR APPOINTEES:

Community Preservation Act Committee

Elisa Campbell 2001-2007

Audrey Child 2001-2007

Design Review Board

Ludmilla Pavlova-Gillham 2001-2007

Disability Access Committee

Becky Hurwitz 2001-2007

Jean Smyser 2001-2007

Historical Commission

Edith Nye MacMullen 2001-2007

Kanegasaki Sister City Committee

Alex Kent 2001-2007

***La Paz Centro, Nicaragua Sister City
Committee***

Cynthia Asebrook 2001-2007

Town/Commercial Relations Committee

Gerald Jolly 2001-2007

SELECT BOARD

Fiscal Year 2007

Like every year, FY 07 has been a very busy one for the Amherst Select Board. FY 07 marked the first year of Larry Shaffer's tenure as the new Town Manager. Larry hit the ground running as the Select Board directed him to accomplish several tasks important to this board. Among these charges were: 1) work with the Amherst Police Department and UMass to create a new Mutual Aid Agreement; 2) address the process for new businesses obtaining permits and begin to make it more business-friendly; 3) address the woeful condition of minority hiring in Town Hall; 4) take an active role in overseeing the construction of the Plum Brook athletic fields; 5) work vigorously with the University and colleges to not only work together in spirit, but to have a new financial relationship; 6) explore economic development with the University; 7) explore problems at Cherry Hill Golf Course and take action to improve service and finances at the site; 8) be mindful of Town-wide transportation issues – parking, congestion, bike lanes, bus service; 9) develop a budget based on existing revenues; 10) address areas of Town government that could be changed to save money; 11) work more closely with the community to address grievances.

Mr. Shaffer followed these instructions and, as a result, we now have a signed Mutual Aid Agreement that gives UMass police officers more latitude in enforcing Town and State laws on Town property; an improved relationship between our business owners and Town Hall; an increase in the hiring of persons of color; improved compliance with DEA regulations at the Plum Brook recreation site; a new strategic partnership with UMass being negotiated that will increase Fire/EMS payments to the Town; a working task force exploring joint economic development between the Town of Amherst and the Town of Hadley and UMass; new management of Cherry Hill, resulting in improved service and finances; reorganization of veteran's services to lower costs; a budget that did not use reserve funds for the first time in seven years; a new parking task force; improved relations with members of the community and a more pro-active approach to solving neighborhood problems.

There was one change in membership on the Board. In March, Alisa Brewer was elected to replace Robie Hubley, who served for four years with enthusiasm, commitment to our community, energy, integrity and wisdom. Gerry Weiss was re-elected to a second three-year term and was chosen by the Board as the new Chair of the Select Board. Alisa Brewer was elected Clerk. It was agreed to continue the Board's recent practice to rotate the office of vice-chair every month.

Meanwhile, the SB conducted its usual day-to-day business, appointing dozens of residents to boards and committees; holding many public hearings on a variety of issues; working closely with the many boards and committees to see that their ideas and concerns were taken seriously, often implemented. Among these were outreach bus improvements, signage to increase public safety on Town roads, improved parking downtown; the revitalization of the Town Commercial Relations Committee; approving many liquor and victualler licenses; holding public information sessions on the FY 08

budget process, which proved to be one of the most difficult in many years, culminating in working with the Town Manager, Finance Committee and Town Meeting to pass a balanced budget without the benefit of a Proposition 2 1/2 override, which was defeated by the voters.

The Select Board placed on the November ballot a small increase (from 1% to 1.5%) in the CPA surcharge for open space (farmland, forest, conservation and recreation) protection, community housing and historical preservation projects. This was overwhelmingly passed by the voters.

The Select Board also continued the task of addressing the problems created by the effect of Special Municipal Employee (SME) status on the workings of some boards and committees. We created a process by which every board and committee could learn the SME law and decide if they needed this status to operate effectively. In the past, all boards and committees were granted this status without question. Since instituting this procedure, fewer than 10 committees have applied for the status.

In an effort to be educated about the zoning articles that would be coming to the Annual Town Meeting and the Fall Special Town Meeting, members of the Select Board began attending hearings of the Zoning Subcommittee of the Planning Board.

We worked with the Cable Advisory Board and ACTV to finalize a new contract and to support the Chair of ACTV in testifying before the Massachusetts Cable Division to oppose the proposed 90 day licensing process.

We supported the MMA through letters as they sought to push the legislature on a number of proposals designed to bring more state aid to towns and cities.

We worked with the Disability Access Advisory Committee to finalize and approve the Americans with Disabilities Act's Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan and further voted our commitment to the implementation of the Transition Plan.

We helped deal with the difficulties experienced by the Amherst Survival Center as they struggled to improve their service to the community and respond to consumers' grievances.

We helped guide the lengthy and complex, but ultimately successful process for protecting the house at 575 North East Street from demolition and for securing a historical preservation.

We deliberated on tax classification before voting for equal tax rate for all classes of properties, no residential exemption and no small commercial exemption. The deliberation with the community was to explore each of these issues in depth before voting to make no changes in the current tax classification system. We also placed upon the ATM warrant an article, which was subsequently passed, to increase the annual adjusted gross income guidelines for tax work-off.

We undertook research to find ways for Town employees to more easily obtain home mortgages and placed the results on the Town website.

We helped push along the eventual dedication of the Connector between the UMass and Norwottuk Rail Trail in honor of Art Swift, a long-time advocate for increased bicycle paths and lanes in town.

Working with a local resident and area garden centers, we obtained over a dozen very large flower pots, which have helped beautify our downtown all summer.

It has been a privilege and pleasure working for our community.

Gerry Weiss, Chair
Alisa Brewer, Clerk
Anne Awad
Hwei-Ling Greeney
Rob Kusner

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TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Fiscal Year 2007

Introduction

It has been an incredible year. First, I had the great honor to be selected to be the Town Manager for the wonderful Town of Amherst. I was both gratified and humbled by the honor and I intend to move forward with energy and commitment. Second, I am privileged to follow Barry Del Castilho, Town Manager, and John Musante, Interim Town Manager. Their leadership served Amherst well; each left the Town in excellent condition. It is important that I acknowledge their significant contributions to Amherst. I hope to be able to perform up to the high standards each has set.

First Year Achievements

I spent a good part of last year engaged in meeting and speaking before civic organizations, neighborhood groups and institutional community members. I spoke to the Chamber of Commerce, Amherst Club, Rotary Club, Amherst Women's Club, the League of Women Voters, Amherst Historical Society and Promoting Downtown Amherst organization. I met with the representatives of the Amherst Survival Center, the Amherst Housing Authority, the Amherst Community Television and the Jones Library Board of Trustees. I met with the Jeffrey Lane citizens' group, the Lincoln/Sunset citizen's group, the Shays Street citizen's group, an informal group of builders and developers, the Council on Aging, the Board of Health, the Human Services consortium and the Longmeadow citizens' group. I met frequently with Chancellor Lombardi of the University and President Marx and President Hexter of Amherst College and Hampshire College, respectively. I met with the various chairs of the Town's boards and commissions. I developed a relationship with Amherst department heads and employees to learn of their challenges and to assess their considerable talent. Finally, I met with scores of citizens. Each organization, group or individual had a story to share with me about their devotion to the Town and how the community might be improved. I learned a great deal about the issues before the community, and that base of information will serve as the platform to achieve solutions to the challenges before us.

I also engaged and stimulated the community to discuss the many opportunities and challenges associated with economic development. I encouraged the creation of a partnership with the Town of Hadley and the University of Massachusetts Amherst to identify resources and to outline how University assets might be employed to assist with economic development. The first joint meeting with the Town of Amherst Select Board and Town of Hadley Selectmen took place to discuss economic development and the need for a regional perspective to this important issue. Amherst's relationship with the University and Hadley continues to grow positively. I also appointed a new interim Town Counsel, Gary Brackett, to replace Alan Seewald.

My management style incorporates a respect for process review. Simply put, process review means the comprehensive analysis of the systems that provide services to the community. With the terrific cooperation of the department heads and staff, we were able to complete a comprehensive study of a number of processes. First, an analysis of the fire and ambulance

revenue and expense was completed. That review yielded the understanding of the gross and net cost per call, the relationship between the fees being paid by the participating towns and the costs of those services, the amount of time it takes to respond to calls, the number and amount of time when multiple ambulance calls were taking place and the difference in average call time based upon origin of the call. That research allows for the beginning of the conversation with the University and the participating towns as to what an appropriate amount might be to compensate Amherst. Second, a comprehensive analysis of water consumption over the last four years was conducted to develop new policy in response to the dramatic drop in usage that occurred as a result of UMass conservation efforts. That same process has been applied to the permit and inspection process, emergency management and recreation programs sponsored by LSSE.

Activities

The administration performance highlights from last year included the following:

- reorganized the Cherry Hill Golf Course operation
- reorganized Veterans' Services Office
- reorganized the budgetary process
- reorganized the Permit and Inspection process
- established the groundwork for the Strategic Partnership Agreement with UMass
- resolved the Jeffrey Lane/Common School parking lot debate
- guided and supported the Survival Center transition
- reorganized the Human Rights/Human Resources operation
- reorganized the Citizen Activity recruitment and committee management
- completed comprehensive review of fire/ambulance cost, call and performance
- completed comprehensive review of water and sewer usage and trends
- led the effort to prepare an Emergency Operation Plan update
- led the effort to create a new Police Mutual Aid Agreement with UMass.

Conclusion

I look forward to working with the Select Board, Town Meeting, department heads, employees and the citizens of Amherst towards building a better community over the next year. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Laurence Shaffer
Town Manager

ASSESSORS' OFFICE AND BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Fiscal Year 2007

The members of the Board of Assessors for fiscal year 2007 were Connie Kruger and Donald Wise. Connie was elected as chair of the Board.

The Board voted to maintain valuations for FY 07 at the same level as FY 06, recognizing the slowing of the real estate market. Although the pace of sales slowed in calendar year 2005, the sales prices, in general, were at the same level as in 2004.

The Board supported Town Meeting Article 3, which increased the Town's ability under state law to maximize tax exemptions and deferments for income-eligible residents. This allows eligible residents to work off \$750 at \$7.50 per hour and apply it to their taxes.

The Board met on November 13, 2006 with the Select Board to discuss consideration of a split residential commercial rate and the possible adoption of the Residential Exemption. The Select Board must make a determination for each of these options each year. The Principal Assessor and the Board of Assessors provide information and recommendations regarding the annual determination. In FY 07 the Board Assessors recommended against the split rate because its adoption could further dampen the vitality of Amherst's business sector. The Board also voted against the Residential Exemption.

The Board of Assessors held 8 meetings in FY 07 and had two meetings with the Select Board.

FY 07 TAX RATE RECAPITULATION

(A) Class	(B) Levy Percentage	(C) Levy by Class	(D) Valuation Class	(E) Tax Rate (C)-(D) x1000(A)
Residential	90.3487%	28,983,909.18	1,848,463,295	15.68
Open Space				
Commercial	7.2063%	2,311,784.73	147,436,305	15.68
Industrial	0.2352%	75,452.28	4,811,600	15.68
Personal Prop.	2,2098%	708,904.97	45,210,430	15.68
TOTAL	100.00%		2,045,921,630	*****

AMHERST BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Fiscal Year 2007

The Amherst Board of Assessors held 12 public meetings during FY 07. Board activities associated with these meetings are summarized in the following report. Details on the information in this report can be found in the minutes of the Board of Assessors meetings. The Board also had joint meetings with the Select Board to discuss a potential residential exemption and the classification hearing.

REAL/PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX

Commitments/Warrants

The Board signed summary FY 07 property tax commitments and water/sewer warrants for the following:

Real Estate Tax	\$31,371,151.56
CPA	\$ 222109.19
Personal Property	\$ 708,899.40
Water Liens Interest	\$ 5,666.47
Water Liens	\$ 56,010.27
Sewer Liens	\$ 53,913.41
Sewer Liens Interest	\$ 5,629.87
Rollback Tax	\$ 16,774.96

Abatements

Of 64 applications for abatement in FY 07 real/personal property tax, 37 were approved for some reduction in tax and 27 were denied any abatement.

Personal Exemptions and Deferrals

The Board signed a form that was submitted to the Department of Revenue for partial reimbursement of FY 07 personal exemptions. For FY 07, there were a total of 132 personal exemptions and deferrals totaling \$129,031.31, as follows:

	<u>#</u>	<u>Value</u>		<u>#</u>	<u>Value</u>
Clause 17D	11	\$ 3,594.03	Clause 37A	9	\$ 7,663.91
Clause 18	0	0.00	Clause 41C	43	62,286.93
Clause 22	59	40,333.26	Clause 41A	6	13,153.18
Clause 50	4	2000.00			

MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX

Abatements

The following total amounts of motor vehicle excise tax abatements for July 2006 through June 2007 were signed by the Board:

2001	\$ 303.33
2002	183.75
2003	42.50
2004	539.00
2005	1,414.02
2006	23,306.32
2007	116,310.15

Commitments/Warrants

Motor Vehicle excise tax commitments and warrants for the following yearly totals were signed by the Board:

2004	\$ 40.00
2005	826.37
2006	194,453.13
2007	1,417,339.30

SPECIAL MEETINGS

The Select Board is responsible for allocation of the tax rate (Minimum Residential Factor): whether or not to have a Residential Exemption, and other distributions of the tax burden within classes as allowed by the law. The required public meeting to discuss these issues was held on November 13, 2006 in the Town Hall. Board of Assessors recommendations included not to have a split rate and not to exercise the Residential Exemption. The Select Board approved a single tax rate for all classes and no shifts of the tax burden within classes.

TAX RATE/ETC.

Board members signed the Tax Rate Recapitulation form for FY 07 on December 5, 2006, showing a tax rate of \$15.68. The rate was reviewed and approved by the Department of Revenue (DOR) on December 11, 2006.

Prepared from the Board meeting minutes.

For: Constance Kruger
Donald Wise

Amherst Board of Assessors

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2007

The Cable Advisory Committee completed work on a renewal license for Amherst's cable provider, Comcast, in mid-October. The contract was subsequently signed and is now in force. The Committee also drafted a contract between the Town and Amherst's Public Access contractor, Amherst Community Television, but Town Manager Larry Shaffer chose to undertake negotiations with ACTV himself. Despite overwhelming Committee opinion to the contrary, the Town Manager has decided that the Town no longer needs a Cable Advisory Committee.

William C. Venman Chair

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR

Central Services

Fiscal Year 2007

The Collector's Office maintains the Central Service Counter in addition to the ongoing work of billing and collecting real estate and personal property taxes, water and sewer bills, ambulance bills, refuse bills and motor vehicle excise bills. This office also handles parking permits and parking tickets. The Central Services concept is quite unique in municipal government, consolidating some Town Clerk, Treasurer, Accounting and Assessing functions in a single point of service for the public and internal departments. That our Collections staff successfully accomplishes all this work is a valuable Town asset.

In fiscal year 2007 our staff was reduced by 25 hours, a part-time position formerly dedicated to the Central Services counter. Our remaining staff has filled these hours at the counter, which takes a toll on our back-office work of billing, reconciling, communications and new projects. As our staff was reduced again as part of the coming FY 08 budget reductions, we are implementing some changes to try to minimize the damage. The Assessor's staff is covering 10 to 15 hours of counter work each week, and we have approval to work while closed to the public on Thursday mornings.

FY 07 collections continue to be strong against the levy in taxes and utilities. At year's end, over 98% of the real estate and personal property tax commitments for 2007 had been collected, net of abatements. This is an important number for the fiscal health of the Town, supporting our cash flow, our ability to borrow and our bond rating. Collection in all receivable types is detailed on the following page.

Kathy Pollard, a 12-year Town employee, left Central Services in April to become the new Veterans' Agent. We miss her, and wish her well in this new capacity of service to the residents of Amherst.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Claire McGinnis", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Claire McGinnis
Town Collector

COLLECTOR'S FISCAL YEAR 2007 TOWN REPORT

		Beginning Balance JULY 1,2006	Commitments	Less Abatements & Transfers	Transfers To Tax Title/ Deferred Tax	Less Collections	Uncollected Balance JUNE 30,2007
REAL ESTATE							
FY 05	16.69	\$20,455			1,820	14,717	3,918
FY06	15.06	\$349,359		2,616	105,075	221,884	19,784
FY07	15.68	0	31,379,469	190,973	4,028	30,673,260	511,208
		\$369,815	\$31,379,469	\$193,589	\$110,924	\$30,909,861	\$534,911
OTHER REAL ESTATE							
TAX TYPES							
Supplemental Taxes		\$2,800	\$15,303		\$852	\$11,549	\$5,702
Rollback Taxes		\$0	8,368			8,368	0
ProForma/ProRata		\$0					0
		\$2,800	\$23,671	\$0	\$852	\$19,917	\$5,702
PERSONAL PROPERTY							
FY 02	19.00	\$349		151			197
FY 03	17.11	\$997		724			273
FY 04	17.40	\$3,101		2,506		13	583
FY 05	16.69	\$973		626		52	295
FY06	15.06	\$6,374		10		4,392	1,971
FY07	15.68		712,687	24,915		680,691	7,082
		\$11,794	\$712,687	\$28,931	\$0	\$685,148	\$10,402
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE							
FY 98	25.00	20,720				14	20,706
FY 99	25.00	20,498				216	20,282
FY 00	25.00	22,515				472	22,043
FY 01	25.00	21,445		303		564	20,578
FY 02	25.00	18,288		184		1,131	16,973
FY 03	25.00	18,085		43		1,588	16,454
FY 04	25.00	28,041	40	539		5,890	21,653
FY 05	25.00	38,996	826	1,414		14,290	24,118
FY06	25.00	80,886	184,453	23,306		207,263	34,770
FY07	25.00	0	1,417,349	116,310		1,205,233	95,806
PRIOR YEARS		0				1,994	
		\$269,473	\$1,602,669	\$142,099	\$0	\$1,438,654	\$293,383
WATER							
RATES		\$317,541	\$3,085,065	\$127,804		\$2,897,562	\$377,240
LIENS		\$7,878	56,010		1,137	57,962	4,789
		\$325,419	\$3,141,075	\$127,804	\$1,137	\$2,955,524	\$382,029
SEWER							
RATES		\$369,351	\$3,072,404	\$41,920		\$2,970,936	\$428,899
LIENS		\$7,378	53,913		4,873	51,385	5,033
		\$376,729	\$3,126,317	\$41,920	\$4,873	\$3,022,321	\$433,932
AMBULANCE							
Collected after abate		\$609,716	\$2,356,521	\$838,445		\$1,567,468	\$560,324
		\$0				20,536	0
		\$609,716	\$2,356,521	\$838,445	\$0	\$1,588,004	\$560,324
COMM. LANDFILL							
REFUSE LIENS		\$6,438	\$132,406	\$130		\$129,044	\$9,670
		\$845				845	0
		\$7,283	\$132,406	\$130	\$0	\$129,889	\$9,670
PARKING FINES							
Collected after abate		\$273,938	\$337,915	\$23,415		\$259,343	\$329,095
		\$0				33	0
		\$273,938	\$337,915	\$23,415	\$0	\$259,376	\$329,095
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT							
FY05		52				52	0
FY06		1,985		26	610	1,261	88
FY07			222,112	1,501		217,876	2,735
		\$2,037	\$222,112	\$1,527	\$610	\$219,189	\$2,823

Levies with zero balances will no longer be displayed in subsequent years.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2007

During the fiscal year 2007, the Human Services Funding Committee transitioned to become the Community Development Committee. The 5-member Human Services Funding Committee responsibilities expanded beyond reviewing funding requests from human services agencies, and recommendations to the Select Board, Finance Committee and Town Manager. Now, the Community Development Committee's membership must consist of seven voting members and one non-voting staff liaison, the Community Service Director. Out of the 7 voting members, one member represents the Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee, one member must represent the Public Transportation Committee, and at least two Committee members must be low- or moderate-income as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Community Development Committee follows the Select Board guidelines for the procedures and recommendations for human service funding, as well as holding the required public hearings and periodic evaluation of the social services provided, as the Human Services Funding Committee has in the past. The Community Development Committee's new charge now incorporates recommendations to the Select Board regarding the Town's Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG), including both the social service and non-social service community development activities. This new assignment will require gathering input from Amherst residents and from other boards, committees and Town departments about CDBG projects. The Committee will review and evaluate funding requests from boards and committees, local social service agencies, citizens and others interested in receiving CDBG funding from the Town. The committee will schedule and hold the required CDBG public hearings, and make recommendations to the Select Board regarding CDBG projects to be included in the grant applications. The Committee will update Town Meeting yearly, as well as monitor the progress of the CDBG project implementation.

Between July 1, 2006 and July 1, 2007 the Committee met 15 times. Members were Ruth Backes (resigned), Claude Tellier, Calvin Brower, Ruth Wade (resigned and replaced by Jana McClure), Tamara Rutland Mills, and Co-Chairs Mary Jane Laus and Paulette Brooks.

HUMAN SERVICES:

Evaluations and Impact

The Committee began the fiscal year by following up on the June 23, 2006 letter to all human services funding recipients requesting two "measurable impacts or benefits" to the Amherst participants they service. The Community Development Committee sought to measure benefit, other than numbers of Amherst participants, to justify continued funding. The Committee planned to meet individually with each agency to collect meaningful data about the individual programs they provided. Committee members each volunteered to meet with at least two agencies to identify their long-term goals and help them develop a more formalized evaluation plan. As Committee members reported on their findings, it became clear that the agencies' services to the community were too widely diverse to measure comparatively.

Amherst Survival Center

Beginning in July 2006, the Community Development Committee was informed of the Amherst Human Rights office's investigation into participant complaints against the Amherst Survival Center. As one of the human service agencies funded by the Town of Amherst, and because the Committee's

charge included “reviewing and recommending funding,” the Community Development Committee became a forum for the controversy. The Committee evaluated the limitations to make recommendations within its charge. During meetings held with the Town Manager, the Committee recommended that a Town representative serve on the Amherst Survival Center Board of Director as a non-voting liaison, as well as contract changes to incorporate greater accountability in future contracts for funding.

Human Services:

The Community Development Committee reviewed proposals for funding from human service agencies and made funding recommendations to the Select Board, Finance Committee and Town Meeting. The Town Manager’s and Finance Committee’s budget proposed \$25,000 for human services funding, cutting funding from its prior budget of \$140,977. On April 3, 2007, after meeting with a member of the Finance Committee who stressed the present budget crisis, the Committee could not recommend anything lower than 50% support, or \$45,250, of the prior year’s funding from the Town as critically necessary.

The Select Board’s original recommendation for human service funding was \$56,000. The Committee’s majority vote recommended a request to Town Meeting for \$114,450 for human service funding. Town Meeting member Isaac BenEzra challenged the Committee to ask for 1% increase from last year’s funding. The Committee’s minority voted to support BenEzra’s recommendation. Town Meeting appropriated \$66,000 for FY 08 social service agencies (see Community Services Department report for details of the Committee’s funding recommendations).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

During October 2006, the Committee learned that Amherst is no longer considered a mini-entitlement community. The Mini-Entitlement Program provides funding for eligible Massachusetts towns with Community Development Block Grant funds on a non-competitive basis. The new determination by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts means that Amherst will no longer be automatically eligible to receive the funding from the State. The Town may apply for these funds, but the eligibility criteria make funding more difficult to secure. A public hearing was held on January 4, 2007.

The Community Development Committee recommended that the 2007 CDBG application include the following activities:

1. ADA compliance for sidewalks and traffic lights in one or more geographic areas (the East Amherst Village Center and Amherst Center)
2. some ADA modifications at the Bangs Community Center
3. continuation of the Town’s childcare tuition assistance program
4. general administration and expenses.

On February 1, 2007, the Community Development Committee and the Housing Partnership held a joint public meeting to gather input from the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Paulette Brooks, Co-Chair

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE (CPAC)

Fiscal Year 2007

No report was submitted. Instead, the editors offer the following summary of CPAC recommendations to the 2007 Annual Town Meeting, as included in their Report to Town Meeting, which is available on the Town's web site, www.amherstma.gov. Unless otherwise indicated, all proposals were approved by Town Meeting.

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE						
FY 08 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS - BY CATEGORY						
Project	Community Housing	Historic Preservation	Open Space	Recreation	TOTAL	Annual Town Meeting of May 2007
Management of mortgage subsidy program	5,000					
Mortgage subsidy loan for low and or moderate income Amherst resident to purchase home in Amherst	150,000					
West Cemetery- Town Tomb eng. Study		5,000				
South Cemetery restoration/improvements		40,000				not approved
575 North East street(Kimball Farm) contribution		25,600				
Archives Restoration (Sp Coll & Town Clerk)		10,000				
Interpretive Signs - (historic district/building/site)		10,000				
Interpretive Publications		3,000				
Historic Register nominations-Bay rd Corridor		10,000				
Archeological site surveys-Bay rd Intersection		7,500				
MHC Survey & Planning grant match		20,000				
Historic Preservation Restrictions-- surveys & appraisals		10,000				
Plum Brook Athletic Fields - Debt Service				43,666		
Surveys and appraisals			15,000			
WD Cows			150,000			
Lawrence Swamp Complex (Tietjen)			50,000			referred to CPAC
Total Recommended - FY 08	155,000	141,100	215,000	43,666	554,766	
% of Total By Category	27.9%	25.4%	38.8%	7.9%	100.0%	
Total Approved - FY 08	155,000	101,100	165,000	43,666	464,766	
% of Total By Category	33.40%	21.80%	35.50%	9.41%	100.00%	
ESTIMATED AVAILABLE FUNDS - FY 08						
Estimated 6/30/07 Fund Balance					90,998	
Local Surcharge (1.5%)					346,000	
State Match for FY07 received in FY08					219,000	
Total Revenue					655,998	
Less: Keep >= \$100k in Reserve					(100,000)	
Net Revenue to Fund FY 08 Requests					<u>555,998</u>	

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
HUMAN SERVICES
Fiscal Year 2007

The Amherst Community Services Department provides a variety of services to Amherst families and the Amherst community. During FY 05, the Community Services Department's responsibilities had increased significantly; during August 2005, the Director of Community Services was appointed staff liaison to the Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee, and when the Town was notified it had been designated a Mini-Entitlement community by the State Department of Housing and Community Development, the Director of Community Services also became responsible for submitting the Town's application to the State for Community Development Block Grant funds. During FY 06, the Director became responsible for managing the Town's FY 05 Community Development Block Grant.

The Director of Community Services continues to 1. provide the community with childcare/early education information, especially regarding the availability of tuition assistance for low-income families, 2. administer Town appropriations to human service agencies, 3. provide emergency assistance to low-income individuals and families, using interest from the Alfred Field Charitable Trust Fund, 4. edit the Annual Town Report, 5. assess community needs with respect to childcare and human services, 6. develop new programs that respond to community priorities, 7. work collaboratively with numerous committees and groups that provide important services to the Amherst community and provide staff assistance to the Community Development Committee (formerly the Human Services Funding Committee).

HOUSING

The Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee's major responsibility is to increase the availability of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income Amherst individuals and families. In 1989, the Town acquired a parcel of land, referred to as "Olympia Drive," mainly for open space preservation. Approximately six acres of this parcel were reserved for the development of affordable housing. A joint development plan with the University of Massachusetts had been under discussion. When the University made it known that they did not wish to proceed with a cooperative project, the Housing Partnership and Director of the Community Services Department began planning for the construction of affordable housing. During FY 07 it became apparent that since the University owns the road that provides frontage for the proposed development, the Town lacks the legal frontage necessary to comply with zoning regulations. In addition, there is no agreement with the University regarding maintenance of the road. The Town Manager is hesitant to begin an affordable housing project on Olympia Drive until these issues are resolved.

The Housing Partnership supported a request to the Community Preservation Act Committee for funding to support a mortgage subsidy program that would provide deferred loans to low- and moderate-income households to purchase homes in Amherst. The Committee requested funding for three \$50,000 loans, to be paid back to the Town upon sale or transfer of the property. Repaid funds would be placed in a trust fund for future use by low- and moderate-income households. This CPA request was voted by Town Meeting.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

During the summer of FY 07, the Town was notified by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) that its request of \$600,000 was approved for the following activities:

Amherst Housing Authority - 11 units of new rental housing: \$350,000

The Amherst Housing Authority will lease the land to a private non-profit developer for the construction of 11 units of affordable rental housing on Main Street, in the East Amherst Village Center. This project has been consistently supported by the Amherst Select Board, the Community Preservation Act Committee, the Planning Department, and Amherst Town Meeting.

Family Outreach of Amherst to provide a Family Service Director of Community Services: \$66,912

This program will help families obtain resources, develop supportive connections and reduce social isolation and improve access to services that will promote the healthy psycho-social and emotional development of Amherst youth. Support will be provided to families with children attending grades 6 – 12.

Childcare Tuition Assistance: \$75,000

The Town received \$75,000 to continue to provide childcare subsidies for low- and moderate-income households with parents working or attending school.

The Community Services Department began program implementation of this program during the fall of FY 07 by responding to a series of special conditions and completing an environmental review of each activity for the above activities.

As part of the Town's FY 05 Community Development Block Grant, the Town provided funding for the design phase of a renovation project of kitchens at Chestnut Court Apartments, a disabled and elderly housing development owned by the Amherst Housing Authority. During the fall of FY 07, the Town responded to a request for proposals from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for funding to complete this renovation project. The Town was notified during the spring of FY 07 that its application was approved and that the Town would receive approximately \$460,000.

During the fall of FY 07, the Town was notified that it no longer qualified for Community Development Block Grant Mini-Entitlement status. This means that the Town will no longer be entitled to receive CDBG funds, but would have to compete with other communities for funding, except that for FY 08 it would receive \$275,000 as a "transitioning-out" community. The Town, however, did apply for \$600,000.

CHILDCARE

During FY 07, The Town continued to provide childcare tuition assistance to families with funding from its FY 06 CDBG funds.

School Age Childcare: \$16,295

The Annual Town Meeting held in the spring of 2007 allocated \$16,295.00 to provide tuition assistance for low- and moderate-income families with children attending school-based after-school childcare programs. During FY 07, twelve families received support for sixteen children attending these programs. These funds helped parents pay for childcare services while they continued to work or attend educational institutions.

HUMAN SERVICES:

The Community Services Director and the Community Development Committee reviewed the report of the Human Rights Director, responding to several complaints about the operation of the Amherst Survival Center. The Committee recommended to the Town Manager that the FY 07 contract between the Town and the Survival Center contain several requirements that would lead to significant reorganization and improved service. These changes seem to have had a positive effect on the operation of this important community program.

As part of its charge, the Community Development Committee reviews proposals for funding from human service agencies and makes funding recommendations to the Select Board, Finance Committee and Town Meeting.

The Community Development Committee continued to face difficult decisions, as it was clear that recommendations by the Town Manager, Finance Committee and Select Board would greatly reduce the Town's support due to the continuing fiscal crisis. The Committee's priorities for funding continue to follow the guidelines established by the Select Board, namely: 1. emergency services: survival or critical, 2. preventive services and 3. information and referral. The Town Manager's budget recommendations for FY 08 included only \$25,000 for human service funding for FY 08. The Finance Committee supported this recommendation, but the Select Board's final recommendation to Town Meeting was \$66,000; the Community Development Committee's recommendation for funding was \$114,450. A minority vote supported a Town Meeting member's amendment to increase the Human Service fund 1% over the FY 06 appropriation. Town Meeting, after a long debate, supported the Select Board's recommendation and appropriated \$66,000 for FY 08.

The Community Development Committee recommendation to the Town Manager was as follows:

<u>Program Name</u>	<u>FY 08</u>
Amherst Survival Center	\$19,000
Big Brother Big Sister	\$14,000
Family Outreach of Amherst	\$13,000
Not Bread Alone	\$ 6,000
Men's Resource Center	\$ 5,900
Center for New Americans	\$ 4,200
Service Interfaith Cot Program	\$ 4,900

OTHER SERVICES

Requests for charitable funds continue to increase each year. The increased cost of rent, utilities, etc. makes it more difficult to serve all those in need.

The FY 06 Town Report was completed and copies distributed to the Select Board, the Finance Committee, the Town Manager, department heads, the School Department and the Jones Library. The editors of the Town Report thank members of the Information Technology Department for their help in printing the FY 06 Annual Town Report.

Roy Rosenblatt
Director of Community Services

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2007

Synopsis

In the recently elapsed fiscal year, the Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) moved into high gear as it made the transition from “Planning the Plan” to preparing the actual Master Plan. In the course of those twelve months, the CPC completed its essential outreach and drafting work and turned its findings over to the consultants, who prepared to write up the first full version of the document.

Major Accomplishments and Activities

The crucial step toward the end of the previous fiscal year (FY 06) was the hiring, in May, of consultants to guide the public-input phase of the planning process and prepare the resultant draft of the Master Plan. The CPC selected a team comprising ACP-Visioning & Planning, Ltd. (lead consultant and primary contact), Stantec Consulting (for assistance with select components such as Services and Facilities and Transportation and Circulation), and David Loomis of the University of Massachusetts (for design and implementation of the scientific and legally defensible public survey), with additional support from the Environmental Simulation Center (ESC) and Green Mountain Geographics (land use maps). The Principal in Charge at ACP was Jamie Greene (Columbus, OH), assisted by Project Manager Jennifer Lindbom (New York).

Two practical factors had a determining influence on the course of our work:

(1) As ACP had cautioned, and last year’s CPC report noted, one consequence of the lower price that the Town voted to pay the consultants (\$200,000 rather than the \$300,000 that “Planning the Plan” consultant Jeanne Armstrong considered necessary when she wrote the Request for Proposals) was a higher price in what might be termed “sweat equity” on the part of Town staff and CPC volunteers alike: more frequent committee sessions, a heavier personal commitment in the form of organizing public meetings, compiling data, drafting and editing documents, and the like.

(2) In the late summer and early fall of 2006, the Select Board significantly increased the size of the CPC, hoping, it said, to make the body more representative of Town bodies and citizens. The CPC thereby grew from 18 voting members plus three non-voting college/university liaisons plus one non-voting Select Board liaison, to 27 voting members plus three non-voting college/university liaisons plus one non-voting Select Board liaison plus a shift from the two Planning Board representatives, both voting members in the previous configuration of 18, to becoming non-voting liaisons. Appointments to fill the greater number of seats took place over many months, through November 2006. Membership records are available for review in the Planning Department.

A related significant change took place in November 2006, when longtime CPC Chair Alisa Brewer stepped down during the campaign preceding her election to the Select Board. In a seamless transition, two of the newly appointed CPC members assumed leadership positions with ease and professionalism: Eric Nakajima (Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee), as Chair, and Cheryl Zoll (at large), as Vice-Chair, filling the vacancy left by Bob Grose, the last remaining original member of the Committee.

The actual work of the CPC can (ironically, perhaps) be more easily summarized than the process.

Under Massachusetts General Law (MGL Chapter 41 Section 81D), the creation of a Master Plan requires “an interactive public process, to determine community values, goals and to identify patterns of development that will be consistent with these goals.” We chose our consultants in part on the basis of their extensive experience in leading such a public-input process. Given the robust civic culture of Amherst, our process, extending from September 2006 to September 2007, was far more extensive than most.

Last fall, over 500 residents participated in 10 idea-gathering sessions and generated over 1,200 ideas concerning the direction that the Town needs to take. From January through June, 27 members of the CPC joined with fellow residents in 7 work groups (devoted, respectively, to the “substantive” elements of a Massachusetts Master Plan: Land Use, Housing, Economic Development, Natural and Cultural Resources, Open Space and Recreation, Services and Facilities, Transportation and Circulation). They identified broad goals and objectives from the themes that emerged from the idea-gathering sessions and generated some 250 corresponding specific strategies. We tested public support for our proposals at a public forum in March, and through a scientifically designed twelve-page survey distributed to a random sample of Town residents in the late spring. By June 2007 and the end of the fiscal year, the work groups completed work on their draft strategies. As we awaited the survey results, we began to contemplate the adoption process that would follow completion of the Master Plan itself.

Issues

Throughout the planning process, ACP maintained regular contact with the CPC Chair and Town of Amherst Senior Planner Niels la Cour and issued monthly written reports on key dates and deliverables. That the work of the CPC was behind deadline early on became a recurrent “red flag” item in these reports. The initial timeline had envisioned formation of the work groups in the early fall, distribution and analysis of the survey from November through March, and completion of the Master Plan – beginning of the adoption process – by the end of the fiscal year.

The question of schedule – both the extent to which a deadline was compelling, and the reasons for being behind schedule – thus also became a recurrent theme in CPC meetings. CPC members were reminded of the Special Town Meeting action of November 15, 2004 on Article 27, Extension of the Phased Growth Bylaw, which by a 2/3 vote provided five calendar years from November 15, 2004 in order to provide the Town time to prepare and implement a master plan.

A proper analysis of real or perceived problems in the Planning Amherst Together process – and their influence on the final character and quality of the Master Plan – should await the calmer time after the completion of the document, but will be crucial to its successful adoption and implementation.

In the interim, one might at least venture to offer the following as a provisional and limited but objective assessment: The CPC membership expansion clearly slowed down the planning process, but both the extra time and increased representation contributed in their way to increasing public acceptance of both the idea and substance of the Master Plan. Debates over

timing simultaneously highlighted and masked deeper controversies over political values and responsibilities, which will properly be conducted in the open and in the practical arena of the Planning Board, Select Board, and other appropriate bodies.

Final status

At the end of the fiscal year in June, all work groups had submitted their draft objectives and strategies, and the principal public-input processes had been completed. The CPC planned to meet only occasionally over the next two months, until it was ready to receive the complete draft of the Master Plan from ACP toward the end of August.

Future plans

The CPC assumes the Master Plan will be submitted for Planning Board acceptance in FY 08. The CPC assumes the Planning Board will adopt an Amherst Master Plan in time to show progress on Master Plan implementation by November 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

James Wald
CPC Vice-Chair and Acting Chair

AMHERST CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Fiscal Year 2007

The Amherst Conservation Commission was formed by a special act of the legislature and a vote of the Amherst Town Meeting and “.... *is the official agency specifically charged with the protection of a community’s natural resources.*” Our purpose is the “*promotion and development of natural resources...and protection of watershed resources.*” In this capacity, the Conservation Commission advises other municipal officials and boards on conservation issues, manages Town-owned land dedicated to conservation purposes, and has responsibility for administering the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Town’s Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Thus the Commission has management, education, and regulatory responsibilities in the Town of Amherst.

The current Commission members are: Nicki Robb (chair), Liv Baker (vice-chair), John Gerber, Eleanor Manire-Gatti, Harvey Allen, and Otto Stein. We work in partnership with Conservation Department staff: Conservation Director David Ziomek, Wetlands Administrator Stephanie Ciccarello, Land Manager Douglas Hutcheson, and Assistant Land Manager David McKinnon. This year proved particularly challenging, with Ms. Ciccarello on maternity leave. Although intern Sarah Minick kept the paperwork moving, professional activities had to be conducted by Commission members, and Conservation and Planning Director Ziomek. While we survived, it was a less than ideal situation. On a positive note, the addition of Ms. Libby Lass to the office has greatly improved the efficiency of the Conservation Department and allowed professional staff to focus on more appropriate activities.

The Conservation Department oversees the management of over 2,000 acres of public conservation land and 80+ miles of public trails. In addition, the Department has assisted the Town in preserving close to 2,000 additional acres of prime farmland through the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program. Other activities of the Department include: 1) trail maintenance, 2) invasive species awareness and control, 3) beaver habitat management on Town lands, 4) supervision of activities at Puffer’s Pond, 5) maintenance of natural resource signage, 6) encouragement of farming, 7) awareness and protection of endangered species, 8) encouragement of nature and outdoor education, 9) environmental protection, 10) coordination of conservation efforts with other departments and committees, and 11) coordination of conservation efforts with neighboring towns.

The Conservation Commission meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month to discuss conservation issues and hold public hearings on issues related to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Amherst Wetlands Protection Bylaw. In this capacity, we reviewed dozens of plans last year from developers, individual homeowners, businesses, and public bodies for construction or other activities in the immediate vicinity of protected resource areas. Each new project of this sort requires a site visit and follow-up monitoring by either staff and/or Commission members. These public hearings allow continued development of Amherst’s homes and businesses while protecting critical natural resources such as wetlands, ponds, and waterways. There has been a steady increase in the complexity and contentious nature of these hearings as Amherst becomes denser and building is proposed closer to vulnerable resource areas. Some activities in the proximity of protected resources result in violations and require immediate investigation, action, and, often, mitigation or restoration.

In addition to the regular business of the Commission, this year we were actively engaged in:

- revision of the Town of Amherst Wetlands Regulations
- acquisition of Agricultural Preservation Restriction land
- participation in the Town Comprehensive Planning Process
- consultation with the Amherst Farm Committee
- support for the Hitchcock Center for the Environment
- discussions of Flood Protection Zoning
- Community Preservation Act deliberations
- support of the Amherst Shade Tree Committee
- coordination and support to preserve the historic house and property on North East St.
- beaver management
- development of an Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The Town of Amherst has demonstrated a long-term commitment to conservation issues related to sustaining farming, supporting wildlife habitat, and maintenance of natural areas. Without this support, neither the Conservation Department nor the Commission would be effective in the long run. Of particular concern to the Conservation Commission is the continued financial support authorized by the Town Meeting each year. We believe that the public investment in developing conservation resources over the past 30 years is worthy of continued support as these resources do so much to define the character of our town.

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Fiscal Year 2007

The Conservation Department works collaboratively with citizens, Town departments and numerous State agencies to protect and enhance the natural environment in Amherst. FY 07 was another busy year for the Department and Commission. Complex wetlands cases, committee support, land management and land acquisition activities consumed thousands of hours of staff and volunteer time. Active collaboration with the Planning, Inspection Services, DPW, LSSE, Health and other departments was, yet again, an important component of the year as Amherst continues to struggle with limited budgets and a smaller workforce.

Wetlands

A brief review of the wetlands cases handled by staff this year reflects the growing trend in Amherst: issues are becoming more complex and contentious. Most of the dry, upland parcels of land have been developed, and what is left is wet and will be more difficult to permit. Wetland cases often result in litigation or, at the very least, long and difficult hearing processes. As always, our staff continues to work closely with homeowners, developers and the colleges to design projects that safeguard wetland resource areas throughout town. Intern Sarah Minick was a tremendous help to the Department and Conservation Commission this year while Stephanie Ciccarello was on maternity leave with daughter Bailey.

Land Management

The hiring of Land Manager Doug Hutcheson, in 2006, was certainly a highlight and provided momentum for the Department to move into FY 07. Land management staff and volunteers continued to work through a long list of deferred maintenance projects on the more than 2,000 acres of Amherst conservation land, including: trail improvements, bridge upgrades and new signs. Federal funding through the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) provided the Department with money to manage many acres of open field habitat for grassland birds and other uncommon wildlife. New management initiatives focused on the Eastern Box Turtle, a State-endangered species, were also put in motion.

During the year, staff also responded to hundreds of calls regarding downed trees, trail issues, wildlife problems and wetlands. Puffer's Pond and the community gardens also required significant support and time.

Land Preservation

Two significant land preservation projects moved forward in FY 07. After many months of negotiations and fundraising, the Smith project was finally completed, resulting in the conservation of more than 20 acres of land on the Mt. Holyoke Range. Thanks in large part to the Smith Family and collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, this high-priority project was finished. Town Meeting also approved funding for an APR on the Cows property in North Amherst off Meadow Street.

Administration

We were very fortunate to add Libby Lass to the Conservation Department team this year! Libby was formerly with the Town Manager's staff and brings many years of experience to her position as Management Assistant. Important new initiatives kicked off this year were supported by two very enthusiastic interns: Alicia Johnson assisted with the update to the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan, while intern Martha Powers created a new website, focusing on farming in Amherst.

The Conservation Department is staffed by Libby Lass, Management Assistant; Stephanie Ciccarello, Wetlands Administrator; Doug Hutcheson, Land Manager; David McKinnon, Assistant Land Manager; and David Ziomek, Director of Conservation and Planning.

The Conservation Department provides direct and indirect support and assistance to the following committees:

1) Conservation Commission, 2) Agricultural Commission, 3) Public Shade Tree Committee, 4) Amherst Energy Task Force, 5) Public Transportation /Bicycling Committee 6) Planning Board, 7) Zoning Board of Appeals, 8) Norwottuck Rail Trail Advisory Committee, 9) Board of Health, 10) Leisure Services & Supplemental Education Committee.

David Ziomek

AMHERST CULTURAL COUNCIL (ACC)

Fiscal Year 2007

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through the Massachusetts Cultural Council provides funds to the local cultural councils of each city and town of the Commonwealth to support the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences. The ACC distributes our share of these state funds each year to local artists and performers based upon written proposals.

We are committed to funding a diversity of projects, both traditional and experimental, which address the interests and needs of children and adults within the unique cultural milieu of Amherst.

The appropriation from the Commonwealth for fiscal 2007 was \$21,830. We started the grant cycle with \$16,337 in interest (derived from money allocated but unspent in previous years), and of that sum \$5,315 was spent. Added to the \$21,830, the total spent by the ACC was \$27,145. We received 72 grant applications, of which 11 were PassGrants from the local schools, which typically apply for funds to support students' attendance at theatrical and artistic performances. Altogether, 49 grant applications were approved and 23 denied. As in years past, awards were made based on the following criteria: those projects which would expand cultural resources within Amherst, those projects which would support existing cultural resources within Amherst, and those projects which would benefit the greatest number of citizens within Amherst.

ACC board members during the fiscal 2007 cycle were Edith Byron, Anne Burton, Ann Woodbridge, Laurie Nisonoff, Katya Ites, and Howard Sonoda. Sondra Radosh, the Children's Librarian at the Jones Library, was our staff liaison.

The ACC was very proud to nominate Maureen Moore of EQUINOX for a Gold Star Award. Ms. Moore was given the Gold Star Award by the Massachusetts Cultural Council in the spring of 2007, recognizing the excellence and continuing energy of her journal and supportive, lively programs for poets.

These grants fill a real need in the cultural life of the area, and they do a lot to encourage participation in the arts and to make possible the wide variety of offerings that local residents enjoy throughout the year.

Edith Byron, Chair

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Fiscal Year 2007

The Design Review Board held 10 meetings during FY 07. This was down somewhat from previous years and was due to both a slow-down in the overall number of downtown private development projects and the fact that the Board was at low strength (three members out of an intended total of five) throughout the fiscal year and at times had difficulty in achieving a quorum.

Public Projects Reviewed

Pomeroy Village Streetscape – A public forum was held on July 26, 2006 at the Munson Memorial Building to show 3-D computer graphics of generalized proposed streetscape improvements in Pomeroy Village. One outcome of the ensuing public discussion was a consensus that the original historic village center at the South Amherst Common (with its school, church, and library/public building) and the new commercial center at Pomeroy Village needed to be much better connected via pedestrian walkways, so that the two areas – one social and cultural, and the other commercial – could function as a single village center.

Downtown Streetscape Improvements (Kellogg Avenue to Carriage Shops) – The DRB reviewed and approved designs for streetscape improvements in this stretch of downtown sidewalk.

Atkins Corner Intersection Realignment – The DRB reviewed designs for realigning the intersections of Bay Road and West Bay Road with West Street (Rte. 116).

Private (Downtown) Projects Reviewed

The redevelopment and improvement of downtown buildings and sites continued. A number of significant projects under construction in FY 07 had been reviewed in FY 06. The following projects and signs were reviewed in FY 07:

Projects – Bank of Western Massachusetts renovations, A.J. Hastings Block façade improvements, Bank of America ATM kiosk (East Pleasant/Triangle), La Piazza (former Pinocchio's) renovations, Food for Thought Books, and Souper Bowl renovations.

Signs – Maharishi Enlightenment Center; Hampshire Mosque; Subway; PHO Noodle Shop; Bulkeley, Richardson & Gelinas; The Art of Basketball; King's Tailoring Shop, The Refinery (hair salon).

Ludmilla Pavlova-Gilham
Design Review Board

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2007

The Finance Committee advises the Town on matters affecting Town finances and makes transfers from the Reserve Fund to cover extraordinary or unforeseen expenses. The principal focus of the Committee's work consists of adopting guidelines for managing the Town's money and recommending a comprehensive budget consistent with those guidelines to Annual Town Meeting. The Committee also makes recommendations on any articles of Annual and Special Town Meetings that have significant financial implications.

The guidelines are presented in the fall to the budget-making authorities to provide them with information on the extent of resources that are expected to be available for spending on operating and capital expenses in the next fiscal year, as well as the need to link spending limits to the need to accumulate and maintain appropriate levels of reserves in the form of Free Cash and the Stabilization Fund. The guidelines are developed from the Finance Director's projections of revenues and spending during the previous, current and next three to five fiscal years. Changes to the guidelines sometimes occur as new information about resources and needs becomes available. Such changes might be to the amount of available resources and/or to the proportion of the total going to different sections of the overall Town operating budget: municipal services, elementary schools, regional schools and library services.

Fiscal year 2008 guidelines, spending and reserves: a multi-year plan. The Committee is convinced that the Town has a compelling need to develop a multi-year plan to build reserves to a more adequate level than the 5% of operating budgets it has now. This is clearly not enough to protect Town services during the next, inevitable, economic downturn that will surely result in diminished state aid for the Town. The Town had been spending reserves to support operating budgets for several years, in declining amounts. For FY 08, there was to be no spending of reserves, followed by years of rebuilding them.

After reviewing several scenarios presented by the Finance Director, the Committee recommended that the Town follow a three-year plan that would increase reserves to 8% of operating budgets by FY 10 and also provide financial stability and predictability that is lacking when budgets have to be designed just one year at a time. The plan consisted of five elements. First was to establish spending caps. Increases would be held to 3% in FY 08 and to about 5.5% in FY 09 and FY 10. Increases at 3% for FY 08 would mean significant service reductions, because cost inflation is greater than that. Budgets in the two following years were expected to maintain services at the reduced level, or nearly so. The plan required a Proposition 2 1/2 override for FY 08 in the amount of \$2.5 million, with \$1 million of the new revenue to be set aside for use in the following two years. The other elements of the plan were aimed at increasing revenues by working to encourage the state to permit municipalities to have more varied sources of income (such as a meals tax and increased hotel tax); by seeking funds from the university and colleges to cover the cost of various Town services; and by acting to encourage appropriate development within the Town.

The alternative to adopting the plan and approving the override was to hold operating budget increases for FY 08 to 1% for municipal services, elementary schools and tax support for libraries and 2% for the regional schools assessment. In this case, service reductions would be more severe and the opportunities flowing from greater financial stability would be lost.

At the request of the Budget Coordinating Group, the Committee produced a report on Proposition 2 1/2 overrides that described what overrides are, summarized Amherst's history of override elections and described the Town's structural deficit problem.

The Select Board authorized an election for May 1, 2007, at which the voters defeated the override proposal. Town Meeting subsequently appropriated funds for FY 08 that followed the limits of the guidelines, except for the regional schools assessment. Its increase was double the amount proposed by the Finance Committee. The larger increase was mandated by the regional agreement, because the other three towns of the region had already approved a budget and assessment levels that effectively determined the amount Amherst must pay.

Town Meeting, in making its appropriations, followed the recommendation that no reserves be used to support FY 08 budgets except for the additional \$237,893 required for the regional schools. The Finance Committee plans to consider again a proposal for a multi-year financial plan, attempting to gain the full support of the elected boards and the citizens so that it can be implemented.

Fiscal year 2007 Reserve Fund transfers. The Reserve Fund is used by the Finance Committee to cover extraordinary or unforeseen expenses of the Town. An amount is appropriated at each Annual Town Meeting for this purpose. For the past few years, the appropriation has been \$100,000. The May 1, 2006 ATM reduced the amount to \$50,000 in order to balance the FY 07 budget. This year's June 6 Special Town Meeting added \$50,000 because information available at the time suggested that the Fund could not cover all needs. When the Committee met on July 11, 2007, to make the necessary transfers from the Fund, a total of \$66,314 was required, leaving \$33,686 unspent. That remainder is closed to the Undesignated Fund Balance and becomes Free Cash. The Committee made two transfers:

\$ 36,029 General Government, for a combination of Town Manager salary/moving expenses, Legal Services, health insurance mid-year increase and utilities.

30,285 Community Services, for a combination of Veterans Benefits, Veterans Agent payout at retirement, Pool utilities, Cherry Hill utilities and seasonal help and Manager payout.

Meetings. The Committee held 40 meetings during the year, 11 of them immediately prior to Town Meeting sessions and 2 of them combined meetings with the Select Board, School Committee and Jones Library Trustees.

Members of the Committee. All members served diligently and with great thoughtfulness for the full fiscal year. They are Brian Morton (Vice-Chair), Marilyn Blaustein, Paul Bobrowski, Kay Moran, Douglas Slaughter and Andrew Steinberg.

Thanks. This was a difficult year financially for the Town, and consequently the Committee required a great deal of staff support to gather information and to present it to Town Meeting. Finance Director/Treasurer John Musante, along with staff of the Finance Department, provided necessary information about the Town's financial history and current situation. His knowledge about state technical requirements, policies and politics continued to be most helpful. Maria Racca, Financial Analyst, organized information for us and also produced our reports, usually under acute deadline pressure. We rely on assistance of the Town Manager's office staff to help

organize our operation. Our review of the various parts of the Town's budget depends on the assistance of the Town Manager, School Superintendent, Library Director and members of their staffs, along with department heads and other staff responsible for municipal services. Contributions of the Select Board, School Committee and Jones Library Trustees are essential to arriving at an acceptable budget to recommend to Town Meeting. We thank them all for their generous assistance.

We are committed to organizing and presenting financial information to Town Meeting members in order to assist them in carrying out their duty to determine spending policies for the Town. We appreciate the comments and guidance they give us, both as individual members and as a group, the appropriating authority of the Town.

Alice Carlozzi, Chair

FINANCE DIRECTOR/TREASURER'S OFFICE

Fiscal Year 2007

As Finance Director/Treasurer, I am responsible for the coordination of all financial activities of the Town, managing and coordinating the activities of the Finance Department (Accounting, Assessing, Collections, Treasury), development of operating and capital budgets and appropriate budgetary controls, the disbursement, investment, and management of all funds belonging to the Town, and for effective financial planning and management of debt and debt policies. I also serve as the primary staff liaison to the Finance Committee; Joint Capital Planning Committee; and the Budget Coordinating Group, comprised of representatives from the Select Board, Finance Committee, Jones Library Trustees, Amherst School Committee, and the Regional School Committee, the Town Manager, School Superintendent and Business Manager, and Library Director.

Along with a growing number of Massachusetts communities, the Town of Amherst continues to grapple with a structural budget deficit caused primarily by health care and energy costs rising well above the rate of inflation, property tax revenues capped by law (Proposition 2 ½), and State aid to cities and towns \$600 million below FY 02 levels after adjusting for inflation. I worked closely with community leaders to educate them and townspeople about the financial realities confronting the Town, and to develop a financial plan to deal with the Town's structural deficit for the next three years. The Finance Committee proposal consisted of five elements:

1. a property tax override (increase) of \$2.5 million, which is the amount projected to be sufficient to balance the Town's operating budget for three years

2. caps on spending for operating budgets that would limit increases for municipal services, elementary schools, the Regional Schools assessment and library tax support to 3% in FY 08, 5.5% in FY 09 and 5.6% in FY 10

3. working toward achievement of additional revenues and property tax relief through encouraging proposed State legislative action (a local option meals tax, increased hotel room tax, and expansion of the state circuit breaker income tax credit program) and seeking justified contributions in support of public safety services from the University and the colleges

4. pursuing increased property tax revenues through appropriate economic development

5. expedite growth of the Town's reserves (Free Cash and the Stabilization Fund) to a minimum of 8% of operating revenues (approximately \$5.3 million) by the end of FY 10, which is essential for emergencies, for assistance when the next economic downturn results in decreased State aid, and to protect the Town's credit rating so that borrowing for capital projects will not become more expensive.

Voters narrowly rejected the \$2.5 million override question, 52% to 48%, in a special election referendum on May 1, 2007. Town Meeting adopted a reduced budget, with nearly \$400,000 cut from the capital budget and 1% increases (3% to Regional Schools) to operating budgets. While the budget is "balanced" for FY 08, the structural issues remain. The Town must embrace a long-term financial planning model that reconciles financial resources with the Town/School/Library service levels the community desires.

Since FY 03, the Finance Department has reduced the number of full-time equivalent staff by 20%, from 16.31 to 13.00. This has been possible only through the Town's investment in new technology and the staff's ability and willingness to embrace technology to deliver better and more efficient service to the public. In FY 07, automated handheld parking ticket technology was deployed to parking enforcement officers, which provided the dual benefit of reducing the number of voided tickets from illegible script and the elimination of data entry of ticket data by the Collector's staff. Previously, the Collector's Office introduced on-line banking services and partnered with the IT and Fire Departments to streamline ambulance-patient medical reporting and billing through deployment of laptop computers in ambulances. The Assessors increased on-line access to property information. For FY 08, we are exploring ways to increase on-line bill pay activity and to take full advantage of enhancements planned for the Town website.

The Town's earnings on investments increased as interest rates peaked in FY 07, ranging from an average of 5.24% in July 2006 to 5.31% in June 2007. Certificate of Deposit rates rose from 5.10% early in the year to as high as 5.54% by January 2007. Per Massachusetts General Laws, municipalities are not allowed to invest funds for a period greater than one year. A total of \$800,942 was earned from investment interest, stock and mutual funds in FY 07, an increase of \$165,171 from the prior fiscal year. The General Fund received \$439,706, the Enterprise Funds received \$235,666, the Community Preservation Fund received \$17,395, the Stabilization Fund received \$61,433, the Health Insurance Fund received \$8,518, the Worker's Compensation Fund received \$18,854, and the Trust Funds received \$19,370.

On July 7, 2006, the remaining portion of Crocker Farm School Project temporary debt, in the amount of \$1,683,043, was retired. The Massachusetts School Building Authority completed its project audit and made a final grant payment of \$2,477,922. Combined with a previous payment of \$3,821,957, which the Town received on July 6, 2005, the grant totaled 67% of the final eligible audited project costs of \$8,772,664 and interest costs of \$522,145. The Town issued \$3,000,000 in general obligation bonds to permanently finance the local share of this project on October 1, 2003.

There was one borrowing during FY 07. On June 20, 2007, the Town paid down \$110,000 in temporary debt principal and renewed remaining temporary debt in the amount of \$390,000 for one year, at an interest rate of 3.82%, for construction of athletic fields at the Plum Brook Recreation Area. Community Preservation Act funds are to finance two-thirds of the cost, with the remainder financed by taxation over the next ten years.

The Treasurer's Office manages the tax titles for the Town. When a taxpayer becomes delinquent in paying real estate taxes or other local charges that constitute liens on real estate, the Town has statutory authority to take title to the taxpayer's property and, subsequently, to undertake proceedings to foreclose on the property by petition to the Land Court. The property owner can redeem the property by paying the unpaid taxes, with interest and other charges. Two tax title cases dating to the early and mid-1990's were resolved, resulting in full payment of outstanding taxes, interest, and penalties to the Town, and a third case was being aggressively pursued in Land Court as FY 07 came to a close. Twenty-seven new properties were placed in tax title accounts during FY 07, totaling \$70,940. There were 20 properties removed from tax title accounts during the year. Payments totaled \$159,211. Additional interest collected totaled \$45,472. As of June 30, 2007, there were 51 parcels with a balance of \$181,816 outstanding. This compares favorably to the June 30, 2006 balance of \$272,918 and the June 30, 2005 balance of \$284,051. Tax possessions totaled \$100,479 on June 30, 2007.

During FY 07, four taxpayers took advantage of Clause 41A, which allows income-eligible elderly homeowners to defer payment of their real estate taxes until the owner or his/her estate sells the home. This option is intended to help make it financially possible for qualifying citizens to continue living in their homes. The maximum allowed deferral of taxes equals one-half of the assessed value of the property. The interest rate on deferred tax has been 8% until the property is sold or the eligible taxpayer is deceased. The interest rate then increases to 16% until payment is received. On the recommendation of staff, the 2006 Annual Town Meeting voted to accept a new provision in state law that allows the Town to reduce the rate of interest that accrues on property taxes deferred by eligible seniors under G.L. c. 59 §5, Clause 41A, from 8% to 4%, with such reduced rate to apply to taxes assessed for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006. The number of taxpayers participating in this program increased to a total of ten, compared to six the prior year. As of June 30, 2007, there were ten properties with deferred taxes, amounting to \$110,117. I believe that reducing the interest rate encouraged additional taxpayers to take advantage of the program.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge Assistant Treasurer Cheri Boucher for her dedicated work with other Town departments and her unfailingly courteous and professional assistance to taxpayers and the general public. Cheri is in her 22nd year of service with the Town and is one of several “unsung heroes” in the Finance Department and throughout Town government service who make local government “work” for the citizens of Amherst.

Submitted by

John P. Musante
Finance Director/Treasurer

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fiscal Year 2007

In FY 07, consistent with previous years' experience, emergency responses again increased, this year by 6.7%: EMS emergencies increased by 6.3% to 3,780 and fire calls increased by 7.7% to 1,351. This is the first time we have responded to more than 5,000 emergencies in a single year. There was one fire fatality, with 2 civilians and 46 firefighters injured during these incidents. Fire Prevention activity increased due to more oversight time required at the construction projects on the three college campuses.

The three major concerns we have had relative to public safety in Amherst continue: first – the number of simultaneous emergency incidents we encounter strip our on-duty forces to zero almost daily. In these circumstances, we need to rely upon call and student volunteer firefighters to respond back to the fire station to provide coverage for incidents. Such situations occurred over 300 times in FY 07 and can only be solved by increasing the number of career firefighters on duty to a minimum of nine per shift. We continue to have the smallest career force in the state for our population range. The second major issue is the high injury rate to our firefighters – the highest in the State. This also relates to the call volume per firefighter ratio, also the highest in the State. The final concern relates to response times of ambulances and fire apparatus to South Amherst - it takes too long, practically speaking, and corroborated as by applying national standards for emergency medicine and fire safety. This situation only can be rectified by adding a fire station in South Amherst.

In a nine-day span between August 17, 2006 and August 26, we had three major challenging fires, which resulted in one civilian fatality and seven injured firefighters, including five who were trapped inside a burning structure during a roof collapse; and caused over \$2 million in damages. We needed to call in mutual aid for two of the fires, with ten neighboring fire departments sending assistance.

We continued to receive benefits from a \$500,000 federal grant (SAFER) received in November, 2005, which added five (5) new firefighter/paramedic positions to our department. This grant gradually requires Amherst to assume more of the salary burden over five years (this year the grant paid 75% of the salaries). In terms of personnel changes, Captain Gary Childs retired after serving with our department since 1972. Firefighter/paramedic Heidi Olmstead retired also. They were replaced by firefighter/paramedics Reed Frailey and Joseph Lagasse, both of whom came through the student and call forces. Jennifer Sell was promoted to Captain in March, becoming the first woman to be promoted in the career force. We have 31 paramedics on staff, with one student firefighter in training, to continue to provide the premier Advanced Life Support service in Western Massachusetts.

Our SAFE (Student Awareness of Fire Education) program in the schools completed another successful year under the guidance of Captain Tim Goodhind and firefighter John Ingram. This program has been touted by the State Fire Marshal's Office as one of the best in the Commonwealth. Amherst Fire personnel continue to seek ways to improve it each year, as with pancake breakfast initiated this year. In FY 07, we also began to train the elderly in fire and fall prevention.

Captains McKay and Olmstead continued to coordinate the tactical paramedic team, which interfaces with Amherst, State and UMASS police at civil disobedience events where medical assistance may be needed under less than ideal situations.

The Department's Technical Rescue Team, led by Captain Sterling and comprised of ten career firefighters, continues to improve their capabilities to handle confined space, high angle, collapse and other technical rescues each year. We have been attempting to secure structural collapse rescue equipment from federal and college sources for the past three years without success, so we will try to acquire this equipment through the budget process in FY 09.

Assistant Chief Zlogar and firefighter/paramedic Shanley led the Department's wilderness search and rescue team.

The Town and the firefighters' union created an EMS Training Committee in FY 07, to assist our EMS program in terms of training, continuing education, and a quality assurance program for our paramedics and EMTs so that we continue to render excellence in medical care.

Firefighter/paramedic Sell continues as a member of the County's child fire-setter invention group. Captain Johnson and firefighters Tebo and Gaughan comprise the Fire Department component of the Town's Fire Investigation Unit, along with a State police trooper and two Amherst police officers.

Firefighter/paramedic Martell took over from Captain Childs the membership on TRIAD to assist with installing signs for the "What's Your Number" project. Over 1,500 homes and businesses now have street number signs posted in front yards to allow police and fire personnel to find them more quickly in an emergency.

Assistant Chief Zlogar is the Town's Emergency Manager (formerly Civil Defense Director). He is responsible for coordinating Homeland Security issues for the Town. In FY 07, he began a project, directed by Town Manager Shaffer, to update the Town's emergency plans.

Firefighter Adair and firefighter/paramedics Theilman, Dion and Szewczynski continue in their capacity as our mechanics, saving the Town thousands of dollars repairing our vehicle fleet, which numbers 24 vehicles and 6 specialty trailers.

Assistant Chief Zlogar and firefighter/paramedics Roy, Sell and Martell are members of the state Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team, quartered in Chicopee. This team responds to all hazardous materials emergencies in Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties with equipment provided by the Commonwealth.

Our call and student volunteer firefighters continue to function as a vital element of our Fire Department. We could not provide the level of emergency services for the Town without them, especially when all of our career on-duty members are committed to emergencies.

The citizen-based Fire Station Study Committee completed their work in FY 07. They recommended that a new sub-station be built in South Amherst to bring response times in line with the recommended national standards. As our 1928 Central Station has reached the end of its useful life, they also recommended that it be replaced. The Joint Capital Planning Committee now will need to align these recommendations with other Town needs and with

recommendations from the new Comprehensive Plan before as they prepare their recommendations to Town Meeting.

The Hadley Route 9 reconstruction project began, and once again we experienced minor delays with our ambulances traversing to and returning from the Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton.

Firefighter/paramedic Bill Klaus continued to be assigned solely to fire prevention duties. At any given time approximately 50 construction projects are ongoing, which require Fire Department oversight for Fire and Building Code compliance. Even with his assistance, we continue to be overwhelmed in this area. There now is more coordination between Inspection Services and the Health Department with regard to plan review and inspections, with the hope of streamlining the process for businesses.

As a result of the tragic nightclub fire in Rhode Island in 2004, the Massachusetts legislature now requires fire sprinklers in all nightclubs, bars, dance halls and similar entertainment venues with an occupancy of 100 or more. This law created significantly more workload for us as we have many businesses that fall within these parameters.

Amherst continues to have the smallest career firefighter contingent in the State for our population range (28,000-40,000) and is one of the busiest departments in terms of emergency responses and fire prevention activities. Every year the workload seems to increase. The mental and physical stress this level of activity produces with so few people to carry it out is reflected in our high injury rate. Statewide and national statistics reveal that we should have a minimum of 16 staff on duty around the clock, yet we have 7. The increasing number of simultaneous emergency calls is presenting a public safety crisis, when we have few if any resources remaining to answer the next call. Town Manager Shaffer has been able to engage University officials in meaningful talks surrounding payment for fire and EMS services. We hope this leads to Amherst College and Hampshire College agreements in FY 08 so that the minimum staffing of the Fire Department can be increased without tapping Amherst taxpayers to do so. The result will be to secure additional resources required for improving the public safety for all the citizens of Amherst and its firefighters.

The people of Amherst need to be recognized for their continued fire-safe practices and for the cooperation we receive daily during emergencies and inspections. Amherst firefighters are to be congratulated for their selfless dedication to duty and for ensuring our safety each day as well as delivering quality emergency medical care to Hadley, Leverett, Pelham and Shutesbury as well as here in Amherst.

Reports on fire and inspection statistics, emergency medical services, Department training, and the Call and Student Forces follow. This material was authored by Assistant Chiefs Mike Zlogar and Lindsay Stromgren, Captain Tim Goodhind, and Call Deputy Chief Edward Mientka, Jr.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith E. Hoyle, Fire Chief

6 YEAR STATISTICAL RECORD

	<u>FY 07</u>	<u>FY 06</u>	<u>FY 05</u>	<u>FY 04</u>	<u>FY 03</u>	<u>FY 02</u>
EMS RESPONSES	3780	3556	3340	3339	3300	3161
FIRE RESPONSES	1351	1254	1358	1367	1292	1333
TOTAL:	5131	4810	4698	4706	4592	4494
FIRE PREVENTION	2421	2996	2570	2320	2005	1911
FIRE LOSS IN	\$2,785,570	476,000	519,225	73,460	895,000	438,350

FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES

Engine 1: 2001 Emergency One 1500 gpm pumper
 Engine 2: 2003 Emergency One 1500 gpm pumper
 Engine 3: 1995 Central States 1500 gpm pumper
 Engine 4: 1999 KME 1500 gpm pumper
 Engine 5: 1990 Emergency One 1500 gpm pumper
 Engine 6: 1976 Maxim 1000 gpm pumper
 Ladder 1: 1988 LTI 105 foot aerial platform with 1250 gpm pump
 Rescue 1: 2006 Emergency One Spartan heavy rescue
 Tanker 1: 1972 Military 6wd 1300 gallon capacity
 A-11: 1997 Horton Ford ambulance
 A-12: 2007 Horton GMC ambulance
 A-13: 2003 Horton Navistar ambulance
 A-14: 2004 Horton Navistar ambulance
 A-15: 2001 Horton Navistar ambulance
 R-1: 1985 Navistar stake-body truck
 R-2: 2000 Ford F-350 4wd pick-up
 R-3: 1993 Chevrolet 4wd pick-up
 R-4: 1984 Chevrolet Military 4wd brush truck
 R-5: 1997 Dodge van
 R-7: 1995 Ford Crown Victoria
 R-8: 2000 Ford Crown Victoria
 X-1: 2007 Ford 500
 X-2: 2005 Mercury Sable wagon
 X-3: 2004 Mercury Marquis
 X-6: 1998 Ford Explorer 4wd
 Utility: 2001 John Deere ATV 4wd
 2003 Arctic Cat snowmobile (shares trailer with above)
 Trailer: 1992 FEMA COMMANDPOST
 Trailer: 1997 Aerolite (SAFE program)
 Trailer: 2003 state Mass Decontamination Unit
 Trailer: 2004 state Mass Casualty Incident supply unit
 Boat: 2004 Avon zodiac with trailer

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

EMS continues as the component that generates the majority of our emergency traffic, and again in FY 07, we increased our responses, i.e. by 6.3% to 3,780 responses. With our new SAFER grant hires, we now have 31 career firefighter/paramedics, more than any other western Massachusetts Fire Department.

We continue to provide EMS to Hadley, Leverett, Pelham and Shutesbury, and these communities (along with UMass) pay a per-resident fee to us for this service. Over 28% of our total EMS activity goes to non-Amherst communities, and the additional stipend charges to non-Amherst responses enacted in FY 06 continue to increase revenue collection.

Normally we can staff only 3 ambulances simultaneously. Only a quarter of the time or less can we staff 4 ambulances with on-duty personnel. There were 1,572 double ambulance occurrences: 561 times with 3 units committed: 104 times with 4 ambulances tied up simultaneously and 19 times when our 5th or spare ambulance was engaged as well (the 5th ambulance usually is staffed by off-duty career firefighters). Nearly 40% of our total EMS calls required some sort of advanced life support (ALS) intervention. This is consistent with our experience since we expanded to ALS care over a decade ago.

Department EMTs, Intermediates and Paramedics train continuously during the year to maintain state certifications for the EMT level to which they are certified. Personnel take advantage of course work sponsored within the Fire Department and from outside sources, depending upon budgetary commitments.

In FY 05, we were selected by the Commonwealth to receive a "Mass Casualty" trailer for deployment anywhere in Western Massachusetts and beyond if a mass casualty incident occurs that requires an immediate source of medical equipment on an incident scene. The other trailer in Western Massachusetts is in Pittsfield. There are 10 such trailers located throughout the state.

FY 07 EMS RESPONSES

Amherst:	1,922
Belchertown:	44
Hadley:	739
Leverett:	75
Pelham:	69
Shutesbury:	55
Sunderland:	78
Amherst College:	94
Hampshire College:	65
<u>UMASS:</u>	<u>623</u>
 Total Responses:	 3,780

FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES*
JULY 1, 2006 – JUNE 30, 2007

* Statistics include fire apparatus responses only. Ambulance calls are listed under the EMS section of the Fire Department report.

RESPONSES by CATEGORY

FIRES:

Structure:48
Vehicle:16
Rubbish:38
Brush:8
Other:22

Subtotal – Fires132

RESCUE: (includes vehicle accidents).....192

HAZARDOUS CONDITION:102

FALSE ALARMS:

Malicious alarm:51
System Malfunction:214
Unintentional:483
Good Intent Call:.....38
Bomb Scare:7
Other False alarms:5

Subtotal – False Alarms798

SERVICE CALL:36

OTHER CALLS:91

TOTAL FY07 FIRE RESPONSES:.....1,351

TYPE of ALARMS

RESCUE/VEHICLE ACCIDENT:.....137

STILL ALARMS:1,083

BOX ALARMS:50

RECALLS:.....3

Mutual Aid TO other communities:.....19

Mutual Aid FROM other communities:.....5

FIRE LOSSES & CASUALTIES

FIRE DOLLAR LOSSES: (includes contents)

Buildings & other structures	\$2,728,070
Vehicles & other equipment	\$53,400
<u>Other</u>	<u>\$4,100</u>
TOTAL	\$2,785,570

CIVILIAN FIRE INJURIES	2
CIVILIAN FIRE FATALITIES	1
FIREFIGHTER INJURIES	3

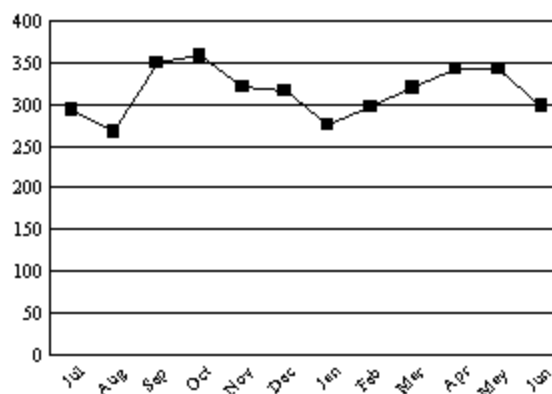
By Town	Fire	%	EMS	%
Amherst	1329	98.4	2711	71.7
Belchertown	1	.1	44	1.2
Hadley	2	.1	739	19.6
Leverett	4	.3	75	2.0
Northampton	7	.5	2	.1
Other	4	.3	7	.2
Pelham	2	.1	69	1.8
Shutesbury	0	.0	55	1.5
Sunderland	2	.1	78	2.1
TOTALS	1351		3780	

By Month	Fire	%	EMS	%
Jul	123	9.1	293	7.8
Aug	98	7.3	267	7.1
Sep	150	11.1	350	9.3
Oct	131	9.7	358	9.5
Nov	108	8.0	321	8.5
Dec	101	7.5	316	8.4
Jan	99	7.3	275	7.3
Feb	92	6.8	297	7.9
Mar	103	7.6	320	8.5
Apr	112	8.3	342	9.0
May	140	10.4	343	9.1
Jun	94	7.0	298	7.9
TOTALS	1351		3780	

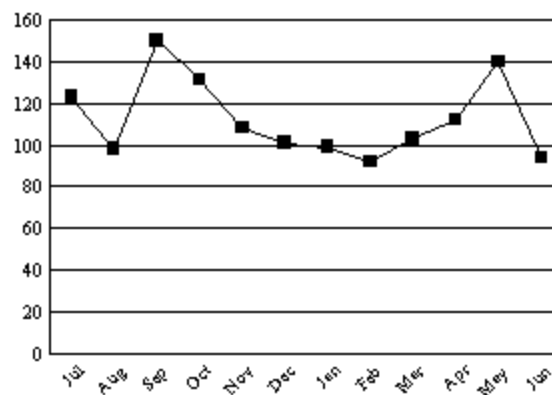
Breakdown by location within Amherst:

	Fire	EMS
Amherst (Town only)	806	1907
Amherst College	94	101
Hampshire College	132	65
UMASS	204	623
UMASS Fraternities/Sororities	93	15

EMS calls only (by month)



Fire incidents only (by month)



FIRE PREVENTION STATISTICS

Building Inspections

Home Inspections (Chapter 148, s26F and new construction)	338
Multi-family dwellings (Chapter 148, s26C)	237
Construction Plan Reviews	
1 and 2 family residential	74
Commercial and multi-family	45
Amherst College	27
Hampshire College	11
University of Massachusetts	86
Fire Protection System installations and alterations	145
Site Plan Reviews (Planning Board)	42

Life Safety Inspections

Restaurants	108
Nursing and Rest Homes	7
Health care facilities	28
Inns and Theaters	36
Fraternity and Sorority	38
Public Schools	32
Private Schools	23
Childcare	10
Public Buildings	2
Elder Housing	19
Other buildings	4

Inspections and Permits

Oil burner installations	143
LPG installations	72
UST removals	17
UST installations	1
AST installations	1
Tank truck inspections	17
Fireworks and pyrotechnic displays	4
Dumpster Permits	44
Total Open Burning Permits	740

Public Education Programs

Open House	1
SAFE	53
Community Programs	8
CPR and defibrillators	8

FIRE TRAINING

During FY 07, the Fire Department saw an increased emphasis on fire training, especially for the career firefighters. The new collective bargaining agreement included the creation of a “Fire Training Committee” consisting of both firefighters and a Chief Officer. The purpose of the committee is to identify topics and skills that the firefighters should be training on. This committee met for the first time in January 2007 and has met on a monthly basis since then. The committee created a list of training topics that should be covered over the next two years. Although the committee was only charged with creating recommendations as to what topics should be covered, they went to the next level and created plans to actually conduct the training on the first few topics. Part of this planning included deciding whether each topic could be taught to the firefighters while they were on-duty and available for calls, or whether they would have to be taught while the firefighters were off-shift. The first of these classes (both classroom and hands-on training) were conducted during the spring and early summer months and included topics such as vehicle extrication and high-rise fires. The committee will continue in FY 08 to organize training on topics previously identified.

The call and student firefighters continued with their weekly drills throughout the year, covering a wide variety of topics. Where applicable, they also participated in the same classes that the career firefighters were taking. Fourteen new student firefighters and two call firefighters completed the annual week of basic training in August, along with the eighteen returning members of the Student Force. The week included two trips to the Springfield Fire Academy for live fire training. An additional two call firefighters were also hired and trained during the fall months. Three of our new permanent force firefighters graduated from the Massachusetts Fire Academy’s twelve week recruit training program for fulltime firefighters.

As in past years, our members were able to take advantage of a wide range of course offerings outside of the Department, from both the Massachusetts and National Fire Academies. Seventeen department members traveled to the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland in September for a weekend of training on a variety of subjects.

Members of our specialized rescue teams also conducted their own drills throughout the year, including the quarterly, day-long drills for the Technical Rescue team. One member of the Department completed his training with the state Hazardous Materials Team and is now part of that response group.

During the upcoming year we will continue to conduct refresher training on key topics as identified by the Fire Training Committee, as well as conduct training on new equipment and procedures. The challenge will be finding the time for the career firefighters to conduct their training on-duty between calls, or to secure the funds for them to be able to train at other times.

AMHERST FIRE DEPARTMENT

Call Force

Fiscal Year 2007

As a branch of the Amherst Fire Department that serves to augment the Department's Career Force, the Call Force may be called in to respond to an immediate fire emergency or called to the station when full-time career resources are committed to fire or emergency medical calls. Fire apparatus primarily assigned to the Call Force is a 1988 LTI 105' aerial platform (Ladder 1), and a 1999 KME pumper (Engine 4).

During FY 07, Call Force personnel were dispatched to a total of 112 emergency responses. These included 50 box alarms and 62 other emergency calls, which included fire alarm activations, motor vehicle accidents, and emergency medical incidents. In addition, the Call Force was called into the station a record 149 times to provide fire suppression coverage for the Town. While in service, Call Force members responded to 52 emergency calls. The Call Force was utilized extensively during major fire incidents of August 16 (Emerson Court explosion), and August 25 (the Bank of America Fire). In addition, the Call Force saw a dramatic increase in mutual aid assistance provided to area towns, including Northampton, Greenfield, Leverett, Hadley, Turners Falls, and Spencer.

This year, the Call Force endured the departure of several members including Lt. Bill Sweet, Lt. Amy Lane, and Brett Morgan, who relocated out of area, along with Joe Lagasse, who was hired to the AFD Career Force. A hiring process and recruit training program resulted in five new members, including: Andrew Burgess, Jack Hart, Jacabo Roque, Peter Venman, and Andrew Welch. At the close of the fiscal year, 8 of our members were Massachusetts Registered Emergency Medical Technicians (2 qualified for AFD service), 11 members were qualified pump operators, and 9 qualified to operate our aerial platform.

A number of our members were active in specialized fire service and emergency medical programs. These programs included pump operator training, aerial qualification and ice rescue. Two Call Force members received specialized training as part of the Department's technical rescue team and several members attended National Firefighting Academy courses.

Call Force members were proud to again assist with the Department's annual National Fire Prevention Week Open House; fire protection and ambulance coverage during the 4th of July fireworks display; and with the annual Student Awareness for Fire Safety Education (SAFE) graduation. Other services included staffing for snow emergencies, providing fire watches, conducting open burning inspections, permit processing, and vehicle transport details.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Mientka Jr. Deputy Chief

Amherst Fire Dept. Call Force

STUDENT VOLUNTEER FORCE

Thirty UMass student volunteer firefighters continued to supplement our career and call firefighters. During FY 07, 9 students lived at the North Fire Station, and the students had their pumper in-service at the station 113 hours a week (Monday-Friday: 6pm to 7am - Fridays at 6pm continuously until Mondays at 7am). The remainder of the week, they are on-call like our call and off-duty career firefighters.

The students responded to 211 fire runs during FY 07, an increase of 22% from last year. Their training is similar to that of our call firefighters. On daily shifts, training occurs for 90 minutes, with the entire student contingent training every Thursday night for 3 hours. We do not expect that they will function at the same level as our career professionals (as they are not paramedics and most are not EMTs, they cannot staff an ambulance), but they perform a critical ancillary service and sometimes arrive first at calls, as occurred a handful of times during the year. In these instances, it is important that they carry out their duties and control the incident until other help can arrive. They have consistently performed well for us.

Student firefighters staff one pumper; during actual fires, they also respond with a pick-up truck and extra self-contained breathing apparatus, spare air cylinders and firefighter rehabilitation supplies. They maintain our Command Board (accounts for locations of firefighters inside buildings) and usually bring an ambulance and a squad to the scene with extra personnel as well.

Student firefighters also attended other training facilities besides the instruction received here. Some of those sites were the State Firefighting Academy in Stow, the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and the Springfield Fire Department Training Center.

In April, 23 new student firefighters began training to replace graduating seniors. We should start FY 08 with somewhere around 36 students, but certainly will lose some to attrition, as we always do. Whatever prompts some students to elect to try to do this job often is tempered during the 72-hour “Wonder Week” training that occurs one week before the college semester begins in September. Usually some new students decide not to continue in the program and drop out during “Wonder Week”; others choose not to return.

Most remain with us, and some do go on to choose the fire service as their profession, as evidenced by the 13 former graduates who now are career firefighters in Amherst, as well as current Massachusetts fire chiefs in Athol, Westborough and Amherst (all three career chief officers in Amherst are Student Force graduates).

The annual “Randy Silveira Memorial Scholarship” was awarded to Lieutenant Mike Mallon. The \$1,000 award is made by the family of Randy Silveira, a 1981 graduate of the Student Force who exemplified character, caring and commitment to the student firefighters and the Town. Randy died in 2003 from cancer, and the memorial was established in his honor to reward the student firefighter who best emulated Randy’s dedication to the student firefighters.

We look forward to another successful year with our student volunteer firefighters as they have served the Town every year since the program’s inception in 1953. Without them and our call firefighters, the Amherst Fire Department could not provide prompt fire and EMS coverage to our citizens.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT & BOARD OF HEALTH

Fiscal Year 2007

The mission of the Amherst Board of Health, working through the Health Department, is to promote the health and wellbeing of our community with special emphasis on eliminating health disparities. We fulfill this mission through our core functions: assessment, assurance, promotion, and policy development.

Assurance: ensuring that all Amherst residents have the services necessary to maintain or restore good health either by coordinating the delivery of services by other agencies, by policy or regulation development, or by providing services directly.

Assessment: systematically collecting, assembling, analyzing, and making available information regarding the health of the community, including statistics on health status, community health needs, and epidemiological studies of health problems.

Promotion: providing services and educational opportunities that encourage healthy environments and healthy lifestyles.

Policy Development: development and implementation of comprehensive public health policies, regulations and legislation.

The work of the Amherst Health Department is organized into six major areas: Access to Health Care, Infectious Disease Control, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Environmental Health, Health Policy and Planning Emergency Preparedness.

I. Access to Health Care

Ensuring access to health care for all Amherst residents continues to be a priority for the Department. Some of the Departmental programs to address these concerns are:

Hampshire Health Connect, “Peace in the Family: a Khmer Community Project,” the Nursing Center, and the Convalescent Equipment Loan Program. We continue to look for resources to expand our services to other newcomer populations.

Hampshire Health Connect

Hampshire Health Connect (HHC) is a nonprofit organization created by a group of citizens, providers and representatives of local government, businesses, and insurers. Its aim is to link families and individuals who are underinsured or who have no health insurance with insurance programs that they may be eligible for or to medical providers willing to see HHC patients at no charge or on a sliding fee scale. HHC is housed in Cooley Dickinson Hospital. The Health Director, Epi Bodhi, is currently secretary of the Board of Directors of HHC.

Thanks to several grants, HHC was able to engage the services of a Latina caseworker, who has been working out of the Amherst Health Department to enroll all Amherst residents, but especially those whose first language is Spanish, in the program. As a result of this, Amherst residents’ participation in HHC as well as the number of Latino clients served by HHC continues to rise.

In the past year, 427 Amherst residents were served. The enactment of Health Care Reform has had a great impact on the work of Hampshire Health Connect. Many who believed they were ineligible for state benefits are now seeking the help of HHC to enroll in the Commonwealth Care Programs.

Cambodian Health

The Cambodian Outreach Worker position was fully funded this past fiscal year through a combination of Town funds and grants received from organizations waiting to support this work. The Outreach Worker continues to provide services and advocate for the Cambodian community.

Outreach Worker Lauren Srey continues to work with Khmer Health Advocates to provide medical and mental health services for Cambodians. She has also worked with many of the elders to help them become United States citizens.

Lauren Srey helps residents in a variety of reasons. Here are some of them:

- 49 citizen Immigration issues
- 156 cases of Medical assistance
- 24 Home visits
- 12 employment assistance cases
- 65 housing issues
- 9 court issues
- 11 Mediation assistance cases in local schools.

Nursing Center Services

Under the Health Department's staff supervision, the Senior Nursing Center provided preventative healthcare for Amherst seniors until January 2007. The office operated eight hours a week. In January it was decided to begin a process of reevaluation of this service. The Health Director, Public Health Nurse and Board of Health Chair met with Senior Center Staff and members of their Wellness Committee to determine the best course of action. It was decided to return supervision of the Senior Nursing Center to the Senior Center, although Health Department staff will continue to serve in an advisory capacity. The Public Health Nurse participated in the revised job description. The VNA of Hampshire County was brought in to help ensure continuity and quality assurance.

Convalescent Equipment Lending Program

Kathryn Drake, Health Department Office Administrator, maintains a loan closet for citizens in need by loaning equipment, handling returns, and receiving equipment donations. Convalescent equipment includes walkers, commodes, shower chairs, tub transfer benches, tub safety rails, canes, crutches, dressing sticks, bedrails, and a limited number of wheelchairs. During FY 07, approximately 103 Amherst residents borrowed 154 pieces of equipment; returned approximately 60 pieces, and donated approximately 12 pieces of convalescent equipment. The need for lending equipment has increased significantly. Requests for equipment have exceeded the actual availability of equipment.

II. Infectious Disease Control

Controlling the spread of communicable diseases and food-borne illnesses is an important function of the Health Department.

Infectious Disease Surveillance and Control during FY 07 included the following:

- 2 cases of active Tuberculosis
- 5 cases of Tb prevention and control
- 12,731 doses of vaccine distributed to eleven Amherst providers
- two flu clinics, in conjunction with the Council on Aging, provided vaccines for Flu, Pneumonia and Tetanus to 273 residents
- Health Fair for Town employees
- monthly immunization clinics, providing 140 immunizations to adults and children
- 6 cases of Salmonella, 3 cases of Shigella, 1 case of Chickenpox, 14 cases of Pertussis, 11 cases of hepatitis B, 20 cases of Lyme Disease, 1 case of Cryptosporidiosis, 1 case of E Coli, 2 cases of Babesiosis, 1 case of Viral Meningitis, 1 case of Ehrlichiosis, 4 cases of Strep Pneumonia

III. Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Programs aimed at promoting health and preventing disease are another important aspect of the Health Department's work. Programs and interventions are either for the general public or are targeted to certain groups that are at increased health risk because of their membership in a particular demographic group, or as consequences of their own behavior or the behavior of others.

High risk groups

- The Public Health Nurse and Inspectors work together in a team approach to address the multi-faceted problem of hoarding, via joint inspections that include mental health assessments and referrals to social services.
- The Health Director and Public Health Nurse work with the Council on Aging to ensure that seniors are offered high-quality nursing services.
- Town of Amherst Handicapped Permits are available to residents of Amherst who have a temporary or chronic condition that substantially limits their mobility. This permit allows residents to park in handicapped spaces within the Town of Amherst. A permit may be obtained from the Amherst Health Department. A doctor's certificate stating the condition and the expected duration of the disability is required. This permit WILL NOT extend any privileges beyond Town limits, or to the area colleges.

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Education

The Health Director continues to be active in several Town, University, and School efforts to examine alcohol abuse, underage drinking, and substance abuse. The Amherst Board of Health received a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) in 1999 to help address this problem of substance abuse in the High School.

The Health Department used this final year of funding of the Drug-Free Communities Grant to evaluate the program and decide on next steps. The Western Massachusetts Center for Healthy Communities conducted a series of interviews with parents, students, and others who have participated in this effort. These results were presented at a

community meeting in January. A group of interested parents have formed a new organization, entitled Partnership for Amherst Children-Teen (PACT), which is working with professionals to carry on this important work. In June, PACT invited community members to a kick-off luncheon.

Programs targeting youth that the Partnership funded included, for the fifth year in a row, the Challenge Day Program for 200 youth and 40 adults. This program is designed to engage youth in an interactive process where youth challenge themselves to understand different forms of oppression that are often the basis of behavior affecting the social climate (such as violence, drug and alcohol use, truancy, bullying, etc.). This program is an integral part of the school district's effort to improve the climate of the school.

Social Justice Grant

The Amherst Health Department was one of four communities chosen nationwide to receive the Social Justice Grant from the Kellogg Foundation to address the social determinants of health disparities. The Amherst Health Department widened its focus to include all of the governing departments of the Town to identify the most effective way to eliminate health disparities.

IV. Environmental Issues

The Board of Health is required by State statute to perform many duties relating to the protection of public health, and disease control, and to advocate sanitary living conditions.

The Board of Health's Environmental Health Division staff consists of 2 Health Inspectors and 1 part-time Administrative Assistant. Their responsibility is to enforce the laws. This fiscal year, our department experienced a loss of work hours due to a temporary leave for our Administrative Assistant and Senior Sanitarian. With minimal staffing, the Department made every effort to fulfill the required semi-annual inspections. We managed to successfully conduct 1,077 inspections and issued 367 Town permits.

Food Safety

The Environmental Health Division inspected 205 food handlers during FY 07. We administer permits for all food handlers, encompassing: restaurants, recreational camps, bed and breakfast operations, residential kitchens, college institutions, hotels, motels, retail food stores, schools, mobile food units, temporary events, caterers, bakeries, and frozen food establishments.

Routine inspections and the perseverance of this division is crucial to protecting the public health. The division enforces Chapter X of the State Sanitary Code: Minimum Standard for Food Establishments, 105 CMR 590.000. These State laws allow the Town of Amherst to conduct inspections, issue orders and suspend or revoke permits where necessary.

Since the State's adoption of the 1999 Federal Food Code, the Environmental Health Division has collaborated with local restaurants to be in compliance with new regulations. The code requires all restaurants to have a person in charge (PIC) who has knowledge of food-borne disease prevention and application of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles. We will continue to monitor food managers to ensure the obtainment of their Food Manager Certification and to develop a food protection program. This fiscal year, David Zarozinski (Sanitarian) organized a Food Manager Certification program and enrolled local

restaurant managers, along with Department peers Tom Dion (Assistant Sanitarian) and Ruth Taylor (Administrative Assistant).

Body Art Establishments

There are three body art establishments and 16 licensed practitioners in Amherst. The Board of Health has made a few amendments outlining the policies under Restrictions, Recordkeeping and Standards of Practice, effective May 31st, 2007. The Inspectors were able to conduct 6 inspections.

Massage Therapy & Tanning

Under authority of Section 31 of Chapter 111 and Sections 51 and 53, Chapter 140 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (M.G.L.), the Health Department issued a total of 45 permits to massage therapists, massage establishments, and tanning operations. Unfortunately, due to the lack of staff, inspections were limited.

Swimming Pools

No person may operate or maintain any swimming, wading or special purpose pool without obtaining a permit from the Health Department. The permit is subject to the requirements of 105 CMR 435.00 and to any regulations as may be adopted by the Board of Health, provided, however, that said local board of health regulations are not applicable to a State-owned or-operated swimming, wading, or special purpose pool. The Health Department issued 20 swimming pool permits, four of which were residential.

Recreational Camps

We continue to perform extensive monitoring and inspections to sustain quality and assurance of compliance. This fiscal year, there were 23 recreational camps.

Camp operators can request CORI's and SORI's online. The turnaround time for such a request is estimated to be 4-5 business days. We recommended that all camp operators use the online feature. As a result, some camps that had fallen behind on criminal and sexual history requests were able to get results in time for their scheduled inspection.

Throughout the year we receive new information from the Community Sanitation Program. The Department makes every effort to forward the new material and information to all of our camp operators in a timely manner. Although the Environmental Health Division continues to distribute informational packets, these packets are now made available online.

Housing

The Health Department has the authority to pursue all nuisance and housing complaints. In accordance with Chapter II of the State Sanitary Code: Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation, M.G.L. c.111, ss. 127A and 127B: 105 CMR 410.000, upon a citizen's request or on its own initiative, the Health Department can certify violations, issue orders, hold hearings, grant variances and institute court proceedings, if necessary to enforce such orders. This fiscal year, our Housing Inspector conducted 131 inspections including fraternities, sororities and voucher-program related issues.

M.G.L. c.111, s.122, allows the Health Department to investigate nuisances which in the Board's opinion may be injurious to the public health. The Health Department may destroy, prevent or

remove such nuisances and make appropriate regulations. There were 119 nuisance complaints, mostly involving trash. All nuisance complaints were addressed and abated.

Subdivisions

BOH has 45 days to review and approve or disapprove preliminary and definitive plans for the subdivision of land, in accordance with M.G.L. c.41, ss.81S-81V. Failure to act is deemed an approval. The Health Department considers drainage, water pollution, sewage and potential damage to well fields. This fiscal year, we reviewed 3 subdivision plans.

Septic System

The Environmental Health Department enforces the State 310 CMR 15.000, Environmental Code, Title 5: Standard requirements for the siting, construction, inspection, upgrade, expansion of on-site sewage treatment, for the transport and disposal of septage. This fiscal year, our health inspectors conducted 17 percolation tests and 17 septic system finals.

Septage and Garbage

The Health Department enforces Title V of the State Environmental Code: Minimum Requirements for the Subsurface Disposal of Sewage, 310 CMR 15.000. We issued 18 permits for the removal or transportation of garbage and offal this fiscal year.

West Nile Virus

The Department continues to educate residents about measures to prevent becoming infected with West Nile Virus (WNV). In FY 07, 2 dead birds were reported for monitoring purposes to the Health Department; neither of the birds was submitted for testing.

V. Emergency Preparedness

The Health Department continues to develop a volunteer medical provider pool through the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Program. There are currently 30 health care providers on the Amherst MRC roster. The Amherst MRC has held monthly training sessions since the fall of 2004. The group is trained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS), Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) operations, Shelter Operations, and other public health emergency and disaster preparedness-related topics. The group is planning a variety of public health outreach and education projects, including a health fair for senior citizens. Health Department staff are involved in several local preparedness organizations such as the Hampshire Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition, the Metropolitan Medical Response System, and Five-College Public Safety Emergency Preparedness. The Health Department, Board of Health and MRC were key partners in planning and executing a Western Massachusetts emergency drill that took place on April 12th, 2007. The Town's Emergency Operation Center was opened and the Health Director participated in the exercise and evaluation.

VI. Health Policy and Planning

The Board of Health is responsible for setting policies and creating regulations to protect the health of Amherst residents. Board of Health members are: Nancy DiMattio (Chair), Ellen Pile, Sarina Ergas, Sandra Sulsky, and Alan Weiner. Under Massachusetts General Law, as well as State and local regulations, boards of health have a broad range of responsibilities for making and enforcing policies that promote and protect the health of citizens.

The Board must conduct an in-depth analysis of the many issues that come before it. This year, issues have included senior nursing services; body arts, including tattooing and piercing; water integrity; smoking in apartments, and obesity in school-age children.

The Board is concerned about emergency preparedness and spent time at every meeting going through different aspects of the Town's emergency preparedness efforts for public health. The Board seeks to delineate its role, as well as staff's, in an emergency. The Board has worked with other Town departments as well as other agencies in our region to ensure that we are prepared.

The Health Director is an active member of the Board of Directors of NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials.) She is a member of the Social Justice Committee as well as the Task Force to develop an operational definition of Local Public Health.

The Health Department works with agencies in public health as well as human services throughout the County to ensure that all residents have access to needed services; as such, she is an active member of Strategic Planning Initiative for Families and Youth (SPIFFY) as well as the Healthy Communities Committee of Cooley Dickenson Hospital. The Health Director was asked to represent the Massachusetts Public Health Association as a participant in the Coalition for Local Public Health, a statewide coalition made up of representatives of the five statewide organizations that advocate for local public health. The Coalition works with State officials to ensure that Massachusetts residents receive the best public health services available.

FY 07 Board of Health

Nancy DiMattio, Chair
Ellen Leahy-Pile
Sandy Sulsky
Alan Weiner, MD
Epi Bodhi, Health Director

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Fiscal Year 2007

The Historical Commission is one of the standing committees of the Town of Amherst, created by Town Meeting in October 1972. Under M.G.L., Ch.40, sec.8D, a historical commission is responsible “for the preservation, protection, and development of the historical or archeological assets of the town or city.”

MEMBERSHIP: Seven Commission members are appointed by the Select Board for three-year terms, renewable once. Comprising the FY 07 Commission were:

Gai Carpenter, Clerk
Lyle Denit
Lynda Faye (appointed in November)
Michael Hanke (appointed in September)
Edith Nye MacMullen, Chair
Elizabeth Sharpe (appointed in January)
James Wald, Vice-Chair

For the first two months of the year, the Commission operated without a full body; by January, with the last new appointment, it was rejuvenated. The three new members brought exemplary backgrounds, commitment, common sense, and good humor to the Commission’s deliberations. The Town of Amherst is fortunate to have such dedicated citizens anxious to serve.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

In order to facilitate the work, and spread the burden around, the members of the Commission chaired subcommittees; in fact, each subcommittee chair took over the primary responsibility for the particular topic and reported to the Commission at each monthly meeting.

Cemetery Improvements: Lynda Faye (formerly the West Cemetery Committee)
Community Preservation: Edith Nye MacMullen
Comprehensive Planning: James Wald; Ms MacMullen served on one Work Group
250th Anniversary: Lyle Denit and Lynda Faye

Jonathan Tucker continued to serve as staff liaison, providing, through his historical knowledge and commitment, invaluable guidance.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES:

The work of the Commission can be divided into two broad categories: the routine, on-going responsibilities, and initiatives; both have grown.

Demolition Delay Hearings: Eight applications were brought before the Commission. In four cases no hearing was required; in one, the Commission was satisfied that the intent of the owner to sell the barn for removal met preservation requirements; public hearings were held in three cases, after which demolition was approved, although in each case the Commission required that the structure be documented.

Credit must be given to Mr. Denit, who became the Commission’s unofficial barn man, willing to crawl around in dusty lofts to examine the state of barns for which a permit was requested; Mr. Hanke often alerted the group to possible threats to buildings in the center of the Town. The

Commission, in its deliberations, expressed real concern, however, that the community had, over time, concentrated on the preservation of residential structures at the expense of secondary ones such as sheds and barns; much of 19th century Amherst is disappearing, sometimes destroyed without the Commission's review.

The Commission also determined that at some future meeting the procedures for Demolition Delay needed to be reviewed and formalized.

Advisory: Perhaps as an indication of the Commission's increased visibility, it received a number of requests for approval or informatory communications; examples include a description of a projected wireless tower, a presentation of the projected plans for the expansion of the Lord Jeffrey Inn, and a detailed presentation of the redesign of the Route 116-Bay Road intersection. The chair wrote a letter in support of the College's application for historical status for the Inn. At the direction of the Commission, she also wrote letters supporting grant applications from the Emily Dickinson Museum, the Unitarian-Universalist Church, and the Amherst Woman's Club. The Commission also endorsed the Town Manager's proposal to reinstall the warehoused Civil War plaques.

The Commission feels strongly that it is vital to support the preservation efforts of other members of the community. However, when support is lent to private groups, such as the Strong House Museum or the Emily Dickinson Museum, the Town should get, in return, a historic restriction on the structure; such now exist for both museums.

An example of cooperation was the joint efforts of the Public Works Committee and the Commission concerning the South Common. The two groups met on several occasions and hosted a public meeting at the Munson Library to present the historical background researched by Ms. Bonnie Parsons, the consultant hired by the Commission as part of its CPA-funded survey of the Common. Much more needs to be done in this area, as there are competing views on a great variety of issues, such as: is the Common an historic open space and how has this evolved; is its function primarily a hindrance to traffic; what are the traffic needs now and how can these be balanced with the community's needs and opinions? In addition, the Commission met on several occasions concerning CPA proposals and the Kimball House project.

For some time, perceived threats to historical buildings on the University of Massachusetts campus have been brought to the Commission's attention. As a result, Mr. Denit and Ms. MacMullen met with Mr. Cahill, Director of Facilities and Campus Planning, to initiate a discussion. Mr. Joseph Larson, an emeritus professor and the spearhead of the efforts to save the threatened buildings, met with the Commission and consulted frequently with the chair; she also wrote in support of the group's application for historical recognition of the structures. The Commission will continue to collaborate with Mr. Larson's group.

National Historic Register Nominations: Progress has been slow in this category due to the press of other business. One application was approved for forwarding to Amherst College to be included in their application, and the Commission visited another house for possible nomination.

Implementation of the Preservation Plan:

The Commission continues to be guided by the Five-year Preservation Plan adopted in 2005, although it is clear that, while the goals remain valid, the specific objectives were overly ambitious, and we have fallen significantly behind schedule.

Work on the West Cemetery continued. Vandalism on several occasions necessitated repairs to the mural, and metal boxes had to be installed to protect the descriptive brochures. But the planned installation of lights and of the permanent signs has been delayed due to pressures of work on the Town departments involved, as has the redesign of the Pleasant Street entrance. Mr. Hanke has volunteered to design and oversee the installation of permanent signs; however, such signs are costly, and their installation may be delayed. An RFP for the restoration of the oldest stones was published and work will commence next year. A private individual proposed to fund the restoration of a family marker, but the proposed design was not acceptable to the Commission. It became apparent that guidelines for such individual efforts are necessary, a task the Commission will undertake next year.

Kimball House (575 North East Street): Negotiations with the owners, Conservation Commission, and the Town were complicated; the Commission was not actively involved, but its interests certainly were. Although the Demolition Delay expired, the owners continued to cooperate with the Town and clearly agreed not to destroy the house; final resolution is near, and the matter will be brought to the fall Town Meeting.

Other Cemeteries: A new fence around the historic North Cemetery was built by students and instructors at the Smith Vocational High School; the Town's thanks go to them. A proposal to install a fence around the South Cemetery was defeated by the Town Meeting. The Commission realizes that it did not properly involve the residents in our well-meant proposal. Restoration of the headstones in both cemeteries remains a long-term goal.

South Common: An historical survey was completed and the results discussed at a public hearing. This is an on-going project, dependent, as noted above, on related Town projects.

East Common: A consultant is engaged in a study of the East Common, assisted by Ms. Sharpe. Once again, action in this area will require collaboration with other Town bodies, especially DPW.

Preservation of Historic Documents. Due to the pressures on the new Town Clerk and the work load of the Curator at Special Collections at the Jones Library, work in this area proceeds slowly. The Commission received a report on the progress to date, and Ms. Carpenter monitors the progress. It should be emphasized that the efforts of the Commission are, for the most part, funded by CPA money. A full report on the expenditures may be found in the Community Preservation Act Committee report. The Historical Commission is grateful for the sympathetic hearing we always receive from the Committee.

Lecture Series. For the third year the Commission sponsored a lecture series, focusing on aspects of Amherst's history. In the fall, James Smith spoke on 18th and 19th century farming, and Peter Westover described and showed his pictures of contemporary farms. In January, at the Strong

House Museum, Patricia Lutz read a paper on the bicycle craze of the 19th century; Elizabeth Sharpe, at the Jones Library, discussed the Williamsburg flood, the focus of her recent book; in April, at Applewood, Ruth Jones introduced William Clark Smith and his role both in the Town of Amherst and as president of the Massachusetts Agricultural College; for the final lecture, also at the Strong House and in conjunction with that museum's new exhibition, Cynthia Dickinson spoke on Emily Dickinson. The series is another example of the Commission's reaching out to and cooperating with other Town agencies and groups, all of whom share an interest in the Town's history.

In conclusion, it has been a privilege and a challenge to serve on the Historical Commission for the past six years. I leave the group with gratitude for their companionship, commitment, and cooperation and am confident that the Town's interests are in very good hands.

Respectfully submitted,

Edith Nye MacMullen

ANNUAL REPORT MARCH 31, 2007

**AMHERST HOUSING AUTHORITY
33 KELLOGG AVENUE
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS**

*Jean Haggerty, Chair
Peter Jessop, Vice-Chair
Steve Rogers, Treasurer
Judy Brooks, Assistant Treasurer
Joan Logan, Member*

Donna Crabtree, Executive Director

**AMHERST HOUSING AUTHORITY
33 KELLOGG AVENUE
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS 01002**

ANNUAL REPORT AMHERST HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Amherst Housing Authority respectfully submits its Annual Report to the citizens of the Town of Amherst, Ms. Tina Brooks, Undersecretary of the State Department of Housing and Community Development, the Secretary's Representative of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and State Auditor Joseph DeNucci for the year ending March 31, 2007.

The members and staff of the Amherst Housing Authority reaffirm their continued desire to serve all the citizens of Amherst, including those who reside in the several buildings that the Authority owns and also AHA tenants who reside in privately owned buildings in the Town of Amherst.

Sincerely,

Jean Haggerty
Chair

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The voters of the Town of Amherst elect four members of the Board at large and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts appoints one member. All members serve five-year terms. The members establish policies regulating the operation of the Amherst Housing Authority. Regular Board meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month in the community room at Ann Whalen Apartments.

Members of the Amherst Housing Authority Board of Commissioners are:

Commissioner	Term Expiration
Judy Brooks	April 2010
Steve Rogers	April 2007
Joan Ross Logan	April 2007
Peter Jessop	April 2009
Jean Haggerty	April 2011

Jean Haggerty was elected to the Board at the annual Town election held in March 2006. Judy Brooks and Steve Rogers continue to serve as the Authority's members on the non-profit corporation board, Amherst Affordable Housing Associates, Inc.

At their annual meeting in April, Jean Haggerty was elected Chair; Peter Jessop, Vice-Chair; Steve Rogers, Treasurer; and Judy Brooks, Assistant Treasurer.

AMHERST HOUSING AUTHORITY HIGHLIGHTS

On October 27, 2006 over sixty people attended a dedication and open house at the newly constructed duplex units located on Tamarack Drive. These units, and the rehabilitation of 4 units at 99 Bridge Street, were funded by the Community Preservation Act Program, the Massachusetts Housing Partnership, the State Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation served as the construction lender. All units are currently occupied.

The Authority received notice from the Town of the award of two grants that will assist the Authority in preserving existing housing and expanding the supply of affordable housing. A \$409,750 grant award will provide funding to rehabilitate the kitchens and upgrade the electrical service at Chestnut Court Apartments. A \$350,000 grant provides funding for the Main Street project, an 11-unit new construction affordable housing development. The Authority is working with Valley Community Development Corporation and Amherst Affordable Housing Associates, Inc. on this project.

The AHA received a capital grant award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$26,925 for improvements at Watson Farms Apartments. The Authority also received notification of an award of \$50,000 to replace the sewer lift station at John C. Nutting Apartments.

The Housing Authority completed its Annual Agency Plan for 2007 with the assistance of the Resident Advisory Committee. The plan includes a mission statement, goals and objectives, and

numerous policies and budgets. It is available for public review in the Authority offices, in the Planning Department at Town Hall, and in the Jones Library. The Agency Plan was submitted to the U. S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for approval.

A recent retirement and staff turnover presented an excellent opportunity for the Authority to reorganize staffing patterns in a more efficient and effective manner. The Authority has restructured its organization into four teams: Executive Director team, Rental Assistance team, Housing Management team, and Maintenance team. This new approach has enhanced services to applicants and to tenants by improving communication between departments and by cross-training of Housing Authority staff.

The Authority approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Greenfield Housing Authority for implementation of a Section 8 Homeownership/Fair Self Sufficiency Program. The Board of Commissioners also approved Project Based Section 8 contracts for the units located on Tamarack Drive and on Bridge Street.

In recognition of Fair Housing month (April), the Authority co-sponsored a tour of affordable housing in Holyoke and an evening educational program that showed the film "The Letter."

The AHA continues to improve its existing management, maintenance, and rental assistance programs and to emphasize preventative maintenance.

AMHERST HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

In addition to the actual day-to-day management, maintenance, and administration of the Authority's programs, the AHA staff provides information to the general public and to local and state agencies and boards. In September 2006, Paula Sayword retired after 25 years of dedicated service to the Authority and to the Amherst community.

Administrative Personnel

Executive Director	Donna Crabtree
Housing Manager	Nancy Schroeder
Director of Leased Housing	Debbie Turgeon
Office Manager	Pam Predmore
Program Specialist	Dianne Chamberlain
Bookkeeper	Lowell LaPorte
Housing Clerk	Angela Russell

Maintenance Personnel

Maintenance Supervisor/Mechanic	Jerry Aldrich
Maintenance Laborer	John Summers
Groundskeeper/Custodian	Dana Glazier

Contract or Grant-Funded Staff

Support Service Coordinator
Fee Accountant
Counsel – State Programs

Juana Trujillo
Gary DePace
Patricia LaFore, Esq.

AMHERST HOUSING AUTHORITY HOUSING

NAME OF BUILDING	# OF UNITS	FUNDING TYPE	BUILDING NUMBER	DATE OF OCCUPANCY
<u>ELDERLY/ HANDICAPPED</u>				
Chestnut Court Apts.	30	State	667-1	1962
Ann Whalen Apts.	80	State	667-2	1975
Jean Elder House	23	State-Private	667-3	1980
<u>FAMILY</u>				
Watson Farms Apts.	15	Federal	085-1	1982
Stanley St.	2	State	705-2	1988
Jenks St.	4	State	705-3	1989
Olympia Drive	4	State	705-1	1992
Fairfield St.	6	State	705-1	1992
Bridge St./ Market Hill	6	State	705-1	1992
99 Bridge Street	4	Private	Section 8 vouchers	2003
Tamarack Drive	4	Private	Section 8 vouchers	2006
<u>HANDICAPPED</u>				
John C. Nutting	5	State	689-1	1981
Moreau House	8	State	698-2	1990

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS UNDER CONTRACT

NAME OF PROGRAM	UNITS	TYPE
Section 8 Rental Mass. Voucher Program	413 10 units	Federal State

Maintenance/Capital Improvements

The maintenance staff prepared 29 vacancies for occupancy and completed 650 work orders. The staff also maintains the grounds and buildings at the Authority's thirteen properties.

Contracts for two ventilation projects at Ann Whalen Apartments, funded by the State capital improvement programs, were completed. These include replacing the roof-top ventilators and dryer ventilation systems.

The Authority completed the following capital improvement projects: rehabilitation of 99 Bridge Street that included roof replacement, exterior siding repair, repainting, and flooring and appliance replacement; and emergency repair of apartment #8 Chestnut Court.

Management

The Authority maintained 6 waiting lists and processed 1,136 new applications during the year. AHA staff processed 215 income recertifications, signed leases with 29 new households residing in AHA owned property, and conducted 165 unit inspections.

Rental Assistance Programs

The AHA administers three rental assistance programs: the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) and the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP), both funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development. Both programs permit eligible households to occupy privately owned units. The Authority pays part of the monthly rent directly to the owner. Over 120 local owners participate in the programs.

AHA staff issued 62 Section 8 Housing Choice vouchers, completed 800 income recertifications and leased 60 new families on the program. The Authority also completed 10 MRVP and AHVP income recertifications.

435 housing inspections were completed during the year. These inspections included annual, move-in, and special inspections of units leased through the Section 8 and conventional housing programs.

Resident Services

The Support Service Program, through its coordinator, arranges for counseling, individual assessments, support, and crisis intervention to elderly/handicapped residents. The program also provides a number of educational forums for residents.

Ann Whalen Tenant Organization expanded its wellness clinic. This program is administered in collaboration with the School of Nursing at the University of Massachusetts. The Organization also started a program that provides a healthy breakfast for residents of Ann Whalen.

Three Ann Whalen residents, Jean Haggerty, Clemencia Robles and Pat Thompkins, are now involved with the Experience Works program and provide a wide variety of services and educational programs to tenants.

A number of tenants at Chestnut Court and Ann Whalen Apartments are very active in gardening. They have provided many hours of labor enhancing the landscape with flowers and shrubs at both developments.

HOUSING PARTNERSHIP/ FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2007

The Housing Partnership /Fair Housing Committee has broadened its involvement in housing problems facing Amherst as members have become involved in other committees related to housing issues. The Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC) has several work groups with housing being among them. Three Committee members have been a part of that group and worked with other community members to write questions for the survey being done by the CPC. The work group discussed many different perspectives, which were then brought to the attention of the Partnership. Affordable housing was a major issue mentioned at CPC public meetings, and the Partnership looks forward to the final hearings and implementation of the Master Plan.

Last summer, a task force was formed to address the homelessness in Amherst. Two Partnership members served on the task force and reported back their findings. The Task Force had several presentations regarding homelessness in the area; presenters included several representatives of local non-profits and Chief Scherpa. The Task Force prepared and distributed a brochure, to be available in Amherst, that included referral information for those in need of emergency housing. The final report will be presented to the Select Board.

Important policy decisions were discussed and voted on by the Partnership. We voted not to support a change to the Inclusionary Zoning Bylaw that would limit affordability to 80% of area median income. The Committee recognized the need for a variety of affordable units in Amherst, both for residents and developers, while also being aware that Amherst could be in danger of reducing its stock of affordable housing below 10%. The potential loss of affordable housing units at Rolling Green Apartments, in 2013, is of concern in this context. With Amherst's affordable housing stock being only slightly above 10% of total housing units, the Town is vulnerable to development that bypasses local zoning regulations (M.G.L., ch.40b). The Committee made themselves aware of the importance of maintaining the level of affordable housing above 10%.

A decision was made to seek Special Municipal Employee status for the Committee, and this was approved by the Select Board. The Partnership also approved a fee-waiver policy for affordable units in housing developments to present to the Select Board.

There has been progress in providing more affordable housing this year. The Amherst Housing Authority has completed four rental units on Tamarack Drive and will soon be breaking ground on the Main Street project, which will include 11 rental units. Both projects include handicapped units. After several years in court, the Butternut Farm, a HAP project with 26 units, will be built on Longmeadow Drive. The first of four Habitat for Humanity houses to be built on land donated by Amherst College is very near completion, with another to be started this fall. The Housing Partnership proposal for CPA funds will provide three \$50,000 mortgage subsidies for people who live or work in Amherst.

Though little progress was made toward the development of housing on Olympia Drive, discussion still continues with the University. The question of ownership and maintenance of the road remains the greatest barrier. Town Manager Larry Shaffer has been very helpful in meeting with us regarding Olympia Drive and other issues.

Our directions for next year include continuing efforts regarding Olympia Drive, re-examining Municipal Housing Trusts and exploring new uses for CPA funds.

Nancy Gregg

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Fiscal Year 2007

Members of the 2006-2007 Human Rights Commission (HRC) have experienced a range of opportunities to accommodate the needs of Amherst's citizens. As a commission we have participated in activities that required the patience and sensitivities necessary to achieve satisfying results to various citizens and organizations for the Town of Amherst.

In the early part of the year we conceived a plan of community conversations that would be a collaborative project with the Amherst Clergy Council. The chair met once with the Council, introduced the project, and brought the findings back to the Commission. A sub-committee planned a series of films designed to stimulate discussions surrounding issues of social justice or civil rights, with all the parishes being involved throughout the year. This project will manifest itself throughout the coming year.

There were two complaints presented to the Commission: de facto racial discrimination in hiring among non-school and non-library Town positions; and a complaint, along with a petition, about the lack of racial and ethnic minorities in the regional schools. The petition was signed by several Amherst parents and citizens. The Chair and the Director met with Jere Hochman, Superintendent of Schools, and Kathy Mazur, to obtain data with a breakdown of school employees by race and ethnicity.

Maria Popstefanija, regional epidemiologist, presented a power point discussion of the plans to control and minimize influenza illness in Western Massachusetts. The power point covered the history of past epidemics, including the pandemic of 1917-18; plans and strategies for the care of annual winter influenza; plans to outreach to groups where there are generally health disparities; and finally the concerns and differences of a more deadly avian flu pandemic.

Commissioner Frank Gatti and his wife, Ellie, traveled to Iran in May. The Human Rights Commission co-sponsored, with Grace Episcopal Church, a power point presentation of their trip.

On December 10th, the Commission, in collaboration with SAGE, presented the Annual Candle Light reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in front of Town Hall. And on December 14th, the HRC presented a forum on civil liberties and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with Bruce Miller, who teaches constitutional law and law on terrorism at Western New England Law School. Mr. Miller spoke about the Military Commission Act of 2006, which indirectly authorizes torture of alleged terrorist detainees. Joseph Wronka, a professor of Social Work at Springfield College and principal investigator of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights project at the Heller School of Social Policy at Brandeis University, discussed the interdependence of the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

A community issue regarding broadcast programming deficits of Latino, issues such as WFCR's Tertulia, was brought before the Commission. Numerous meetings and deliberations were held to request re-instatement of broadcast times from only four hours per week. Additionally, a Spring Town Meeting warrant article was crafted to form a community board to help in the future programming at WFCR. This was partly supported by the following:

Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

The Commission received information in March concerning an anti-gay incident on the UMass campus. Careful monitoring of administrative action/reaction ensued. The HRC did not receive a written complaint; therefore no other action resulted.

The HRC reviewed the job description for the Personnel Director's position sent to us by the Town Manager as it pertained to the HRC Director's current and future career path. This was of particular concern if the new position was to leave the HRC Director's position professionally uncovered or, worse, minimally supported. The possibility of volunteers in this position was carefully and thoroughly discussed by the Commissioners. We determined that such was not in the best interest of the community since confidential matters would not be protected.

The situation in Darfur had been constantly monitored by Co-Chair Commissioner Ahmed, and Chair and main contact of the Darfur Coalition, Reynolds Winslow, which met monthly. Updates of the progress and lack thereof were brought to our own monthly meetings. Ms Ahmed and spouse Mohammed, a former Commissioner, are both from the Sudan, enabling us to be emphatically concerned. Fanny Rothschild, local human rights activists and Mohammed Elighadi, attended the HRC meeting and updated us on the situation in Darfur.

The Commission took great interest in the early discussions concerning the formation of an African Heritage School for the area. It would have been designed around an African-American centric philosophy and teaching focus. An African-Scholars Program was projected for this curriculum. The project was abandoned after an unsuccessful search for adequate resources.

In March, immigrant issues were prominent in the news and Commissioners maintained an awareness of the deportation issues for undocumented members of many families. New Bedford, Massachusetts was under close scrutiny as we perceived that human rights were being abrogated there. At the same time, Grace Church, which was equally concerned, presented an evening presentation for the community and involved many parishioners in the support effort.

March also brought to light New York and Los Angeles school issues regarding degrading treatment, discrimination, and discipline by instructors. This was particularly important since several Amherst groups and Commissioners have similar concerns about conditions in the Amherst schools and wish to see if there are problems and solutions mutually applicable concerning students of color; we are continuing this effort.

Once again, the Declaration of Human Rights Principles became of major interest to us. The issues that surrounded the Massachusetts Health Care Plan for local residents caused us to be mindful of families unable to afford this necessary, systemic benefit.

Phone mapping became an issue we shared with many – the ability to type a home phone number into the computer, only to have a map appear locating the dwelling. Please refer to <http://www.google.com> to remedy your own situation if needed or desired.

A complaint was brought to the Commission regarding the imminent closing of the Town pools to LSSE, due to budget cuts reducing summer personnel to manage them. The Director of LSSE shared the dilemma and was persuasive enough to spur discussions about how to improve the outlook and to provide these needed summer recreational opportunities for low-income children affected by the reduction of subsidized pool fees. Town Meeting eventually funded a delayed opening of the pools.

The Chair and Director presented to the Select Board the case for requesting Special Municipal Employee (SME) status to enable current and future Commissioners (considered Town employees by law) to professionally represent a client on another committee or commission of the Town. The request was approved.

Planning for the Amherst Community Gathering Potluck commenced in April as a major collaborative to bring the community together. The event, conceived by the local NAACP, involved an expanded number of endorsers: Amherst Education Foundation, Vision Keepers, SAGE, League of Women Voters, Amherst-Bay Saint Louis Sister City Committee, Sojourner Truth Committee, Study Circles, LSSE, NAACP and the Human Rights Commission. This fifth annual event, held this year on June 16th at Mill River Park, was attended by 80-100 persons and continues to grow. The HRC selected 18 students from Amherst's schools for the 'Heroism Award' and presented each with a book gift and a framed certificate. Please see the website developed for the celebration: <http://www.amherstpotluck.com/> for a few photos of the festivities and how you might become stimulated to join as an endorser and/or attendee.

Finally, plans for the HRC Annual Retreat commenced in April. A facilitator was employed and successfully helped us toward the development of a 2007-2008 HRC Activity Plan. This remarkable feat will help us focus on advancing greater effectiveness and assistance to the needs of our citizens and on how the group will operate and increase the visibility of the Commission to the community. We were unanimous in agreement that this new covenant was critically important to us as Commissioners and to the community we serve.

Human Rights Director

The Human Rights Director completed the Amherst Survival Center investigation and submitted recommendations to the ASC, Town Manager, and the Human Development Committee, which resulted in the hiring of a consultant and a complete overhaul of the ASC. A new director was hired, and an almost completely new board of directors was appointed. During the transition, complaints were continually filed and I worked closely with the new director to resolve them.

Other than the complaints received from ASC, I also addressed over 50 complaints/requests from citizens and Town employees and received an average of over 25-30 calls per month regarding alleged civil right violations, fielded inquiries, consultations, and other administration issues, and provided information and referrals.

In addition to dealing with general human rights issues, I also completed a self-evaluation and a Transition Plan for the Town of Amherst through a CDBG grant to bring the Town into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1995.

In preparation for added responsibility as Human Rights/Resources Director and personal development, I attended a series of Train the Trainer Trainings through MCAD (Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination) to become certified as a discrimination trainer. I also attended a seminar on “How to Work with Difficult People”; I also attended, and participated in, the Annual Black Leaders Community Development Conference.

In addition to the responsibilities listed above, I am also the staff representative on the Amherst Katrina Committee. The committee is organizing to bring 10 artists from Mississippi to Amherst on the weekend of September 29th to display their art work at the Apple Harvest Festival. A series of events are being organized as fund raisers for these artists, whose homes and livelihood were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the time, energy, dedication, and support of the Human Rights Commission, and the support of Town officials.

Respectfully submitted,

Eunice Torres, Human Rights Director
Reynolds Winslow, Human Rights Commission Chair

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Fiscal Year 2007

This year the Information Technology (IT) Department again made measurable progress in the area of technology consolidation and standardization. The technology revolution once again did not show any sign of slowing, and the result was another significant increase in Department service levels and additional devices and software systems needing to connect and communicate over the Town's technology infrastructure. The IT Department has identified consolidation and standardization as a critical element in ensuring that Department responsibilities can continue to increase at a slower rate than annual operating expenses and staffing levels.

One of the additional responsibilities the IT Department took on this year was a grant-funded system enabling the Amherst Police Department to share and query master names and report information to other police agencies in the region. This system, called Cross Agency, provides officers with more information while mobile, improving officer safety and allowing officers to make more informed decisions during motor vehicle stops.

Another added responsibility this year was the newly installed Ambulance Patient Care and Billing system. This system consists of wireless touch-screen laptops in all ambulances for patient care, which synchronize almost instantly to the Town's new billing system used by the Collector's office. This system not only improves patient care, but also eliminates redundancies in the completion and transcriptions of paper forms and information by EMTs.

As more and more demands are put on departments and staff, the need for automation and citizen self-service also increases. This year, for the first time, the IT Department took a paper form and created an online-only replacement. Submitting a Citizen Activity Form is required of all individuals interested in volunteering on a board or committee. With the new online-only Citizen Activity Form, submissions are automatically routed to the correct groups for review, and notifications are automatically sent back to the submitter. This system has proven successful, and in the coming year the IT Department plans to require all job applications be completed and submitted online.

One of the most significant achievements the IT Department completed this year was the installation and testing of the first large-scale Community Wireless Mesh network in Massachusetts. When complete, roughly one square mile of downtown Amherst was covered in Public Wi-Fi by almost 30 strategically placed access points. This centrally managed system covers the inside of all Town-owned buildings in the downtown area as well as the streets and common areas. Users can connect to this system without registration and browse the internet and check e-mail at speeds most home users couldn't afford otherwise. We believe this will prove to be an integral part of the community and we are excited about the possibilities this system will foster.

One of the more involving projects the IT Department completed this year was the Public Safety Communications Center overhaul. While dispatchers worked in a temporary space, all systems and furniture in the Communications Center were removed and replaced. All radio systems, video systems, and door access systems were migrated to a completely computer-based environment. When dispatchers returned to their new Communications Center, they were greeted with eight LCD monitors per workstation and the absence of any physical radio buttons.

The new systems will provide improved efficiency for dispatchers and ultimately improved public safety for the citizens of Amherst.

This year the IT Department for the first time had the opportunity to work with Google on some GIS-related initiatives. First, Google accepted Amherst's high resolution digital aerial imagery into its Google Maps and Google Earth database, making Amherst the highest resolution online community in Massachusetts. Second, using Google's SketchUp tools, we were able to upload our comprehensive 3D dataset into Google's database, allowing public viewing of downtown Amherst in 3D.

As more and more technology systems have been added, the IT Department has been mindful of the increase in energy consumption required. To deal with this, the Department took several steps towards minimizing energy consumption, including ongoing optimization of Windows XP desktops and laptops to automatically power off monitors and initiate low-power consumption mode during inactivity, purchasing flat panel monitors, and purchasing only EPA Energy Star-compliant devices. The Department attempts to set an example in making choices and implementing technologies which are environmentally sensitive.

In addition to the many projects completed this year, the IT Department worked diligently behind the scenes, maintaining, repairing, and updating current systems. With the ever-increasing amount of "junk" e-mail and the constant threat of viruses and hackers, software upgrades to servers, PCs and other technology systems become a daily necessity. The IT Department maintains several layers and types of specialized security hardware and software, lowering the risk of unauthorized network intrusion and viruses. The Department also maintains a variety of backup systems, both onsite and offsite, ensuring that, in a disaster, the Town's information and systems would be safe.

Citizen expectation of a more open and digitally accessible government continues to increase. In the coming year, the IT Department will continue to maintain software and infrastructure standards, extend more information and tools to constituents via the Town's websites, provide departments, boards and committees with the necessary technologies to perform primary functions that operate efficiently, and leverage new technologies in ways which will serve Amherst residents for years to come.

Kristopher J. Pacunas
Director

INSPECTION SERVICES

Fiscal Year 2007

The total number of permits issued by Inspection Services in FY 07 was 2,843, which amounted to \$531,361.50 in permit fees. There were 846 Building Permits issued, with a total of \$288,636.00 in Building Permit fees, 55% of the total fees taken in by Inspection Services in FY 07. The electrical fees accounted for another 27% of the income, with the balance coming from Plumbing, Gas, Certificates of Inspection, Weights and Measures and Demolition permits.

Mark Snow, the Assistant Building Commissioner, was hired away from Amherst by the Town of Greenfield. This reduced the Building Inspector staff by 1/3 for 9 of the 12 months in FY 07. Mark was a hard worker and dedicated building inspector. His presence is missed by the Department. We wish him well in his new position.

Major projects ongoing at Amherst College in FY 07 included the Morrow Dorm renovations; the Morris Pratt Dorm renovations, completed in August 2006; the Charles Pratt Dorm conversion and addition, scheduled for completion in the fall of 2007; and finishing touches on the Museum space in the New Earth Science Building. The Hamilton and Porter Dorm renovations, the Wilson Administration, addition and renovations in Converse, Keefe Campus Center and Barrett Hall started in FY 07, with completion dates projected for August 2007. In addition to these projects, we worked with Amherst College on the plan phases for the alterations and upgrades to the Charles Drew Dorm and Mayo-Smith Dorm.

Hampshire College upgrades included: continued renovations of the Enfield Student Housing as well as upgrades and repairs to Dakin House and the Merrill and Prescott dorms. Ongoing work also included alterations in the Lemelson complex.

Commercial projects, ongoing or new, in FY 07 included the Amherst Cinema, a new Dunkin' Donuts on University Drive, the addition for the MRI at 170 University Drive, alterations and interior build-outs at 181, 101, 100, 65 and 6 University Drive, the new Knights of Columbus Building, and alterations for new businesses at 59 B, 41, 37-39 and 30 Boltwood Walk. The North Pleasant Street corridor also had an upswing in alterations for new business or expansions of existing businesses; the most notable of these is the expansion of Judie's Restaurant, but there were also changes at 25, 37, 96 and 104 North Pleasant, to mention a few. There were also a number of new businesses that went in on Main Street, including Elements Hot Tub, WunderArts, the Amherst Grocery, and The Clawfoot Tub, to name a few.

Grace Church, on Boltwood Avenue, started their renovation and addition project.

In addition, there have been a number of multi-family projects both in the works and starting. These include, but are not limited to: Greenleaves, 208 Pine Street, 151 Amity Street, and repairs to Emerson Court and 615 Main Street.

In addition to the other colleges, our Electrical Inspectors also inspect the UMass projects. The new projects there, in combination with all the other work around town, has kept them extremely busy.

It has been another hectic year for Inspection Services, even more so now that our department is reduced by another building inspector. Once again, we thank all of those who have worked with us for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,
Bonita Weeks
Building Commissioner

INCOME FOR INSPECTION SERVICES
FISCAL YEAR 2007

Building Permits	Income	Permits	Gas Permits	Income	Permits
July	95,820.65	82	July	445.00	9
August	12,245.00	75	August	1,625.00	25
September	15,895.00	86	September	2,220.00	25
October	12,731.40	82	October	1,385.00	24
November	40,666.00	73	November	2,060.00	36
December	5,729.10	35	December	1,345.00	22
January	17,848.45	65	January	1,065.00	20
February	4,900.00	33	February	625.00	10
March	20,861.40	55	March	885.00	14
April	18,630.80	88	April	520.00	8
May	24,491.05	86	May	810.00	12
June	18,636.00	86	June	815.00	11
Total	288,454.85	846	Total	13,800.00	216

Weights & Measures

July	300.00	1
August	0.00	0
September	1,405.00	4
October	990.00	3
November	50.00	1
December	1,420.00	9
January	1,912.00	10
February	170.00	5
March	0.00	0
April	45.00	2
May	75.00	2
June	0.00	0
Total	6,367.00	37

Electrical Permits

July	15,428.00	123
August	35,535.00	152
September	9,257.00	82
October	7,605.00	90
November	4,940.00	67
December	8,275.00	69
January	13,862.50	74
February	5,810.00	48
March	24,170.00	58
April	3,245.00	40
May	8,295.00	75
June	6,440.00	62
Total	142,862.50	940

Plumbing Permits

July	3,425.00	29
August	4,130.00	36
September	2,880.00	26
October	3,050.00	30
November	2,340.00	30
December	2,165.00	26
January	3,445.00	30
February	2,155.00	18
March	2,925.00	30
April	2,040.00	24
May	3,310.00	30
June	10,600.00	70
Total	42,465.00	379

Certificates of Inspection

July	1,161.50	12
August	100.00	1
September	13,265.50	83
October	0.00	3
November	0.00	11
December	9,287.50	58
January	6,694.00	68
February	1,989.50	27
March	1,100.00	13
April	300.00	5
May	1,470.00	10
June	183.00	3
Total	35,551.00	294

SUB TOTALS 529,500.35 2712

Demolition Permits	1,380.00	22
Re-Inspection Fees-COI'S	400.00	X
Certificate of Occupancy	X	109
TOTAL	531,280.35	2843

**INSPECTION SERVICES
PERMITS ISSUED
Fiscal Year 1997 - Fiscal Year 2007**

	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
BUILDING PERMITS	795	704	836	733	709	768	798	827	868	1,054	846
DEMOLITION PERMITS	8	8	17	12	13	9	23	8	13	15	22
PLUMBING PERMITS	325	329	363	320	317	402	475	396	342	371	379
GAS PERMITS	236	196	254	214	198	235	230	286	240	192	216
ELECTRICAL PERMITS	842	977	1,007	892	848	848	704	884	1,275	948	940
CERTIFICATES OF INSPECTION	255	344	368	330	362	316	345	351	346	335	294
WEIGHTS & MEASURES		44	50	9	57	51	42	42	41	41	37
CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY	81	70	81	66	80	74	71	97	80	104	109
TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED	2,542	2,672	2,976	2,576	2,584	2,703	2,688	2,891	3,205	3,060	2,843

**AMHERST INSPECTION SERVICES
INCOME FY 03 - FY 07**

	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
JULY	44,497.40	40,676.50	20,354.95	36,960.45	116,785.15
AUGUST	49,163.65	94,251.17	27,917.40	178,126.95	53,840.00
SEPTEMBER	43,495.25	43,302.40	35,923.90	20,901.65	45,022.50
OCTOBER	66,121.74	39,269.70	36,714.80	41,759.65	26,211.40
NOVEMBER	18,365.14	19,394.85	49,740.90	62,675.35	50,261.00
DECEMBER	22,666.60	47,712.23	58,297.15	85,011.30	28,296.60
JANUARY	24,699.50	12,893.00	55,824.85	49,221.45	44,901.95
FEBRUARY	33,054.65	24,608.35	12,051.00	18,864.60	15,649.50
MARCH	42,840.95	39,026.89	29,146.30	60,550.95	50,016.40
APRIL	24,885.10	18,362.00	30,990.65	27,632.25	25,005.80
MAY	80,903.72	29,767.85	60,145.10	149,184.65	38,526.05
JUNE	53,075.12	117,048.48	53,616.97	54,039.90	36,854.00
TOTAL	503,768.82	526,313.42	470,723.97	784,929.15	531,370.35
BUDGET ACTUAL	307,147.00	303,471.00	326,336.00	335,081.00	385,162.00

**FEES INCREASED - MARCH 1992
FEES INCREASED - APRIL 2000**

FEES WAIVED

FY 01 - 45 Permits \$ 4,419.00
FY 02 - 99 Permits \$ 7,360.00
FY 03 - 86 Permits \$ 7,792.00
FY 04 - 58 Permits \$ 7,300.00
FY 05 - 49 Permits \$ 4,705.00
FY 06 - 54 Permits \$ 5,625.00
FY 07 - 56 Permits \$ 5,785.00

PERMITS ISSUED AND INCOME FY 03 - FY 07										
	FY03 PERMITS	FY 03 INCOME	FY 04 PERMITS	FY 04 INCOME	FY 05 PERMITS	FY 05 INCOME	FY 06 PERMITS	FY 06 INCOME	FY 07 PERMITS	FY 07 INCOME
BUILDING	798	346,283.32	827	360,834.50	868	264,845.10	1054	519,544.15	846	288,636.00
ELECTRICAL	704	68,750.00	884	79,382.00	1275	121,498.87	948	149,916.50	940	142,862.50
PLUMBING	475	28,104.00	396	23,274.00	342	19,710.00	371	42,415.00	379	42,465.00
GAS	230	9,100.00	286	11,290.00	240	11,300.00	192	11,120.00	216	13,800.00
CERT. OF INSPECTION	345	43,722.50	351	46,112.17	346	46,078.00	335	39,399.50	294	35,551.00
WTS & MEAS.	42	5,544.00	42	4,847.00	41	5,862.00	41	6,949.00	37	6,267.00
DEMOLITION	23	1,665.00	8	480.00	13	930.00	16	1,110.00	22	1,380.00
RE-INSPECTION	X	600.00	X	400.00	X	500.00	X	300.00	X	400.00
CERT. OF OCC.	71	X	97	X	80	X	104	X	109	X
TOTALS	2688	503,768.82	2891	526,619.67	3205	470,723.97	3061	770,754.15	2843	531,361.50

**MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
\$400,000.00 AND UP
FY 07**

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NATURE OF WORK</u>	<u>EST. COST</u>	<u>FEES</u>
Trustees of Amherst College	Hamilton Dorm	Renovate existing dorm	\$ 4,511,834.00	\$ 45,150.00
Trustees of Amherst College	Porter House	Renovate existing dorm	\$ 2,654,098.00	\$ 26,580.00
Amherst Cinema Center	28 Amity Street	Construct 3 cinemas	\$ 705,995.00	\$ 7,089.55
Cooley Dickinson Hospital	170 University Drive	Addition for MRI	\$ 1,172,569.00	\$ 11,760.00
Rhett Krause	163 Lincoln Avenue	Move attached barn and construct a dwelling unit addition. Renovate remaining portion converting 3 family to 2 family	\$ 431,000.00	\$ 4,660.00
Grace Church	14 Boltwood Avenue	Addition and renovation	\$ 1,341,588.00	\$ 13,450.00
Knights of Columbus	45 Boltwood Walk	Construct new 1 1/2 story building	\$ 790,000.00	\$ 2,275.65
Sunwood Development Corp.	208 Pine Street, Bld 1	New 2 story condominium building - 4 Units	\$ 704,500.00	\$ 5,728.75
TOTAL			\$ 12,311,584.00	\$ 116,693.95

**INSPECTION SERVICES TOWN OF AMHERST
BUILDING PERMITS
ESTIMATED COST
FISCAL YEAR 2007**

Month	New Single Family		New Two Family		Conversion		New Commercial, Institutional, Religious, Farm,		New Condo's Multi-Family Dwellings		Private & Multi-Family Alteration Additions		Commercial Institutional Religious Alteration Additions		Accessory Structures		Total	
	Dwellings	#	Dwellings	#		#		#		#		#		#		#		#
July	\$300,000	1	\$390,000	2	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$635,561	49	\$8,119,427	11	\$152,550	19	\$9,597,538	82
August	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$3,200	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$738,015	47	\$230,939	10	\$71,685	17	\$1,043,839	75
September	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$27,000	2	\$175,000	1	\$0	0	\$714,700	57	\$550,981	9	\$18,215	17	\$1,485,896	86
Quarterly Total	\$300,000	1	\$390,000	2	\$30,200	3	\$175,000	1	\$0	0	\$2,088,276	153	\$8,901,347	30	\$242,450	53	\$12,127,273	243
October	\$65,000	1	\$0	0	\$1,000	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$793,591	52	\$77,276	15	\$131,030	13	\$1,067,897	82
November	\$365,000	1	\$0	0	\$431,000	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$576,640	41	\$2,564,757	15	\$67,584	15	\$4,004,981	73
December	\$267,000	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$214,461	24	\$194,000	7	\$8,200	3	\$683,661	35
Quarterly Total	\$697,000	3	\$0	0	\$432,000	2	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$1,584,692	117	\$2,836,033	37	\$206,814	31	\$5,756,539	190
6 Month Total	\$997,000	4	\$390,000	2	\$462,200	5	\$175,000	1	\$0	0	\$3,672,968	270	\$11,737,380	67	\$449,264	84	\$17,883,812	243
January	\$294,000	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$692,247	39	\$592,615	17	\$52,800	8	\$1,631,662	65
February	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$171,050	18	\$206,740	12	\$5,266	3	\$383,056	33
March	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$790,000	1	\$0	0	\$559,850	30	\$1,141,996	21	\$64,900	3	\$2,556,746	55
Quarterly Total	\$294,000	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$790,000	1	\$0	0	\$1,423,147	87	\$1,941,351	50	\$122,966	14	\$4,571,464	153
April	\$294,500	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$1,186,361	58	\$124,836	14	\$27,050	15	\$1,632,747	88
May	\$187,500	1	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$704,500	1	\$818,273	38	\$511,210	8	\$53,070	38	\$2,274,553	86
June	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$761,001	60	\$799,285	12	\$25,885	14	\$1,586,171	86
Quarterly Total	\$482,000	2	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$704,500	1	\$2,765,635	156	\$1,435,331	34	\$106,005	67	\$5,493,471	260
Grand Total	\$1,773,000	7	\$390,000	2	\$462,200	5	\$965,000	2	\$704,500	1	\$7,861,750	513	\$15,114,062	151	\$678,235	165	\$27,948,747	846
Number of new Dwelling units		7		4		4				4								19

PERMIT TYPE NEW AND ALTERATIONS	Estimated Cost of Construction					
	FY 01	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
DORMS	\$ -	\$ 20,611,825.00	\$ 22,504,625.00	\$ 341,950.00	\$ 15,058,066.00	\$ 8,438,063.00
ACADEMIC / RELIGIOUS / TOWN	\$ 31,134,592.00	\$ 2,674,010.00	\$ 19,883,610.00	\$ 1,504,182.00	\$ 17,071,357.00	\$ 3,234,898.00
COMMERCIAL	\$ 1,619,955.00	\$ 10,287,779.00	\$ 2,917,263.00	\$ 4,628,822.00	\$ 5,197,436.00	\$ 4,491,001.00
MFD	\$ 1,308,584.00	\$ 4,945,076.00	\$ 1,745,275.00	\$ 4,861,875.00	\$ 5,803,919.00	\$ 3,282,106.00
SFD	\$ 10,659,816.00	\$ 13,669,892.00	\$ 14,575,969.00	\$ 15,017,586.00	\$ 14,587,350.00	\$ 8,502,679.00
TOTAL	\$ 44,722,947.00	\$ 52,188,582.00	\$ 61,626,742.00	\$ 26,354,415.00	\$ 57,718,128.00	\$ 27,948,747.00
PERMIT TYPE NEW AND ALTERATIONS	% OF Estimated Cost of Construction					
	FY- 01	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
DORMS	0.00%	39.49%	36.52%	1.30%	26.09%	30.19%
ACADEMIC / RELIGIOUS / TOWN	69.62%	5.12%	32.26%	5.71%	29.58%	11.57%
COMMERCIAL	3.62%	19.71%	4.73%	17.56%	9.00%	16.07%
MFD	2.93%	9.48%	2.83%	18.45%	10.06%	11.74%
SFD	23.84%	26.19%	23.65%	56.98%	25.27%	30.42%

TOWN OF AMHERST
NEW DWELLING UNITS
BY FISCAL YEAR

<u>FISCAL YEAR</u> <u>(July - June)</u>	<u># OF NEW</u> <u>SINGLE</u> <u>FAMILY</u> <u>PERMITS</u>	<u># OF NEW</u> <u>MULTI</u> <u>FAMILY</u> <u>PERMITS</u>	<u># OF NEW</u> <u>MULTI</u> <u>FAMILY</u> <u>DWELLING</u> <u>UNITS</u>	<u># OF</u> <u>PERMITS TO</u> <u>ADD</u> <u>DWELLING</u> <u>UNITS</u>	<u># OF</u> <u>DWELLING</u> <u>UNITS</u> <u>ADDED</u>	<u>TOTAL #</u> <u>OF NEW</u> <u>DWELLING</u> <u>UNITS</u>
FY 99	27	0	0	0	0	27
FY 00	32	0	0	0	0	32
FY 01	33	1	12	0	0	45
FY 02	38	2	38	0	0	76
FY 03	35	2	39	6	29	103
FY 04	28	2	4	0	0	32
FY 05	28	6	49	2	2	79
FY 06	28	2	43	5	5	76
FY 07	7	3	8	4	4	19

JOINT CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2007

Section 5.2 of the Amherst Town Government Act states that “the Town Manager, with the advice of a joint capital planning committee comprised of representatives from the Select Board, finance committee, school committee and library trustees, shall develop a capital improvement program to be presented to the select board, finance committee, school committee and library trustees in time to be included in the finance committee report to the next annual town meeting.” The Joint Capital Planning Committee (JCPC) has two members each from the Select Board, School Committee, Library Trustees and Finance Committee. The JCPC’s focus during FY 07 was to update the Town’s five-year capital plan for the period FY 08 – 12 and develop specific recommendations for FY 08 for consideration at the 2007 Annual Town Meeting. The group met 14 times over the winter and spring to evaluate and prioritize requests from the Town, schools and libraries for major capital expenditures that have an estimated useful life of at least five years and cost at least \$5,000.

Our goal for the past decade has been to allocate 10% of the tax levy to capital needs, a plan cited favorably two years ago by Moody’s. However, operating budget needs have prevented this. Annual Town Meeting in 2006 approved a capital budget for FY 07 using only 8.2% of the tax levy. This year, JCPC voted to support using 8.2% of the levy in FY 08 if the May 1 override of Proposition 2 1/2 had been approved by voters. It was not approved, so 7% of the levy was used instead, in order to keep the capital budget in line with reduced operating budgets.

Proposals for capital plan funding exceeded available revenues by more than \$1.5 million. In order to construct a capital plan balanced with projected revenues, some capital recommendations were reduced in amount, many were deferred to later years, and many were eliminated altogether and placed onto an “unfunded” list for reconsideration in future years.

JCPC recommended and Town Meeting approved expenditure of \$500,000 of Chapter 90 money from the State for qualifying road projects.

Expenditures for capital equipment recommended by JCPC and approved by Town Meeting were: \$12,000 to replace one Town Hall copier/printer; \$100,500 to replace/upgrade Town computers and network equipment; \$172,000 for software upgrades and scanning of paper documents; \$95,000 for permitting software, inspectors’ laptops, GIS database maintenance; \$130,000 for four police cruisers; \$206,000 (90% funded by a federal grant) to replace firefighters’ protective gear; \$45,000 to replace a DPW pickup; \$23,000 to replace a Conservation Department pickup truck; \$3,500 for one defibrillator for LSSE use at the pools and other programs; \$19,000 to replace an LSSE van; \$30,000 for a used pickup truck for the building maintenance department; \$5,000 to replace library chairs and study tables; \$20,000 to replace/upgrade library computers; \$75,000 to replace a 1995 school bus; \$75,000 to replace three Special Education school vans; \$14,000 for energy catalyst devices to improve school heating system efficiency; \$15,000 for School Department phone upgrades; \$25,000 for school copier/printers; \$45,096 to replace/repair school audio-visual equipment; and \$159,882 to replace/upgrade school computers and related equipment.

Expenditures for buildings and facilities recommended by JCPC and approved by Town Meeting were \$5,500 for a Town Hall chiller unit; \$50,000 for Bangs Community Center interior maintenance (grant-funded); \$30,000 for sidewalk improvements; \$5,000 for South Amherst

Campus slate roof repairs; \$2,500 for Knox boxes for schools; \$8,000 for fire station generators and repairs; \$20,000 for police station exterior maintenance; \$25,000 for a Public Works facility study; \$5,000 for Mill River pool chain link fencing replacement; \$15,000 for Cherry Hill gasoline fuel storage tank and security fence; \$10,000 for the Master Plan; \$12,000 for an actuarial valuation; \$6,000 for Jones Library window replacement; and \$10,000 for asbestos removal at elementary schools.

Also, JCPC recommended and Town Meeting approved borrowing \$755,000: \$675,000 cost of repointing and repairing the masonry exterior of Town Hall, and \$80,000 to bring the East Street School into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act by building a handicapped-accessible bathroom and an entrance ramp. The \$80,000 is in addition to the \$15,000 Town Meeting appropriated last year for the East Street School project.

Items not funded due to the failure of the Proposition 2 ½ override were: \$19,000 for replacement copier/printers for Town Hall; \$22,500 for replacement computer hardware/software for the Town; \$83,000 for refurbishing the Fire Department's 20-year-old aerial truck; \$45,000 to replace a 10-year-old DPW pickup truck; \$95,000 to replace the DPW's 1983 sidewalk plow; \$3,500 for a second defibrillator unit for LSSE use; \$40,000 for replacement computer hardware/software for the schools; \$2,500 in janitorial equipment for the Town building maintenance department.

Our entire Five Year Capital Plan Report for FY 08 -12 can be found as an appendix to the Finance Committee's Report to Town Meeting and on the Town's website.

JOINT CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Robert Kusner, Select Board

Gerald Weiss, Select Board

Elaine Brighty, School Committee

Andrew Churchill, School Committee

Kay Moran, Finance Committee

Andrew Steinberg, Finance Committee

Patricia Holland, Jones Library Trustees

Molly Turner, Jones Library Trustees

Staff Liaison: John Musante, Finance Director/Treasurer

KANEGASAKI SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2007

Members: Byron Koh (Chair), Nancy Bess, Denise Boyd, Carolyn Platt, Stephanie Joyce, Helen MacMellon, Yuko Takahashi

Staff Liaison: Nancy Pagano

Retirements: Florence Boynton, Alex Kent

Resignations: Eric Nakajima

Former Mayor Norio Takahashi and the Nitobe Foundation Visit Amherst

On Tuesday, September 19th, 2006, eight members of the Nitobe Foundation (a society designed to celebrate the work of the scholar Inazo Nitobe), Mr. and Mrs. Norio Takahashi, and a travel agent from Kanegasaki, arrived in Amherst just after lunch for a whirlwind one-day tour of Amherst environs which included visits to UMass, Amherst College, The Jones Library, and the grave of William Smith Clark. A reception upon arrival took place in the Town Room of Town Hall, with greetings by new Amherst Town Manager Larry Shaffer, Select Board Chair Anne Awad, and Nancy Pagano, representing the Kanegasaki Sister City Committee. Highlight of the day was a formal dinner (coordinated by Nancy Pagano) at the University of Massachusetts' University Club (aka Faculty Club), with a beer/wine reception prior to dinner sponsored by the Five College Center for East Asian Studies and its director, Kathleen Woods Masalski. To greet our Japanese visitors, area invitees included former Town Manager Barry Del Castillo and his wife Laurie Benoit, Town Manager Larry and his wife Sally Shaffer, Select Board member Hwei-Ling Greeney, former Select Board member Carl Seppala and his wife Karen Stevens, Kathy Woods Masalski and her husband Bill, former Amherst Superintendent of Schools Gus Sayer, Library Director Bonnie Isman, and nine KSCC members and their spouses/significant others.

Yuko Takahashi and Alex Kent served as interpreters throughout the day. Former Mayor Takahashi and his contingent stayed at the Campus Center Hotel and left Amherst the next morning. Funding to treat our Japanese guests and our interpreters was provided by Larry Shaffer, Anne Awad, and the Five College Center for East Asian Studies. Transportation to and from the hotel to the reception and for the Amherst College tour was provided in the Amherst Senior Center's van by Sgt. Mike Sullivan of the Amherst Police Department. A great time was had by all.

March Visit of Kanegasaki Middle School Students

The 2007 Kanegasaki Middle School visit was another successful event. Fifteen students and three chaperones arrived Wednesday, March 21st, at the Amherst Town Hall, where eager families greeted them. Kanegasaki Committee members Nancy Pagano and Florence Boynton organized the welcome party, while Byron Koh, KSCC Chair, made official welcoming remarks. Denise Boyd, who is a committee member as well as the coordinator for the exchange for the Amherst Middle School, introduced the Japanese students to their host families. Once students and families left for their homes, the chaperones were taken to dinner by Denise Boyd and Irene LaRoche, social studies teacher at ARMS.

On the first full day of the Amherst stay (Thursday, March 22), the chaperones were picked up at the Lord Jeffery Inn by Yuko Takahashi and brought to the Middle School. Japanese students and chaperones then were bussed to UMass, where they were treated to snacks at the University of Massachusetts Worcester Dining Commons and a campus tour. Next, the group visited The

Jones Library, the Amherst History Museum and the downtown shops, with Yuko and Nancy Bess. After this, the group returned to the Middle School. Denise introduced the chaperones to Dr. Jere Hochman, Superintendent of Schools, and then joined the students for lunch, a tour of the school and class time. KSCC students spent the later afternoon and evening with their host families, while chaperones were treated to a lovely dinner at the home of KSCC Chair Byron Koh and his wife, Fran Wall. KSCC members contributed to this sumptuous pot luck, and a great time was had by all.

Early Friday, Denise picked the chaperones up at the Lord Jeff and brought them to the Middle School, where they joined the host students and visiting students for a class, and then the visiting students and chaperones were brought on a field trip to Old Deerfield and the Butterfly Museum. That evening, while the Japanese students were entertained by the host families, KSCC members took the chaperones out to dinner at Bertucci's.

The last day of the visit, Saturday, included shopping time and lunch in Northampton for the chaperones with ARMS teacher, Alfie Aschuler, prior to a rendezvous at the Northampton Bowling Alley for a bowling party with the Japanese students and American host students and their families. That evening, a lovely potluck farewell dinner was held at the Amherst Regional High School with KSCC members, host families and all students and chaperones.

Grant Writing Work

Over the summer, Nancy Bess, Kathy Masalski, Denise Boyd and Byron Koh met to discuss grant possibilities, to find a way to fund Amherst students for a trip to Kanegasaki. One such grant possibility was through the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnerships and involved environmental education for Amherst students who would research such matters as water conservation or recycling both in Amherst and Kanegasaki. Through the fall and winter, the grant writing group (Nancy Bess, Yuko Takahashi, Helen MacMellon, Denise Boyd, and Byron Koh) continued its work and the grant application for \$26,000 was almost entirely written by March. Unfortunately in April, Kathy Woods Masalski received information from the Japan Foundation Center that it is not accepting any grant requests at this time.

Looking Ahead

In FY 08, the KSCC will continue to focus on assisting school and Amherst Town officials when Kanegasaki contingents visit Amherst. We are committed to supporting the important work of promoting peace and understanding between different cultures.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Hirsh Pagano, Secretary/Staff Liaison

LA PAZ CENTRO/AMHERST SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2007

ACTIVE MEMBERS:

Alice Allen
Cindy Asebrook
Mark and Nancy Haffey
Jeannie Jones
Chuck and Nancy Milch
Kathy and Walter Mullen
Mary Santiago
Lyle Seger
Anne and Ed Stanek

This year we continued to support 26 scholarship students. The first four students from our scholarship program graduated in December 2006. They were all able to continue on with some form of higher education.

In February 2007, our committee sponsored another delegation from Amherst to La Paz Centro. In fact, eight of the Committee members were included in the delegation, along with ten others from Amherst, both youth and adults. The delegates took school and medical supplies, stayed in separate homes and helped to build a covered pavilion that can potentially be a location for community activities.

While they were there, the delegation was able to view several homes that had been or were being renovated as part of the Habitat program. Unfortunately, the Habitat project has been limited by the change in the Nicaraguan government, and the freezing of the government's share of funding.

We continue to support the Sister City program through three major annual fundraising efforts:

1. a September tag sale on the Town Common
2. a fundraising letter sent out in November
3. coffee sales at Town Meeting

We continue to seek ways to involve more of the La Paz Centro community in our Sister City projects. But we are very happy indeed with the success of the scholarship program in particular.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Z. Stanek
Chairperson

LEISURE SERVICES AND SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (LSSE)

Fiscal Year 2007

LSSE Commission

In FY 07, long-time LSSE Commission member Stanley Ziomek took the helm as chair of the LSSE Commission. Together with Peter Blier, Vice-Chair, and members James Patulak and Afranio Torres-Neto, the LSSE Commission offered invaluable leadership, guidance and support to LSSE throughout the year. Advocacy for the Department's annual budget during another difficult budget year, the continued construction of the Plum Brook Athletic Fields project, participation in the Comprehensive Planning Committee's Master Plan process and administrative oversight of the Cherry Hill Golf Course all emerged as important Department and Commission goals in FY 07.

LSSE Staff

In the fall of 2006, Carol Rogers was welcomed back to the LSSE staff as Arts and Education Program Director, replacing retired Program Director Steve Stoia. Carol Rogers had worked for LSSE twelve years in the past, in a similar position.

Ezzell Floranina, LSSE's long-time Special Needs Program Director, also departed in FY 07, after nine years of innovative work, to pursue her own nonprofit organization dedicated to inclusive arts programming. Ezzell's departure left a void in the Department, but one in which LSSE has resolved to improve through a Department reorganization.

An unfortunate staff departure also occurred with the resignation of LSSE's Aquatics Program Coordinator, Kristen Baffert, in June 2007. LSSE was notified of this resignation in the midst of the Town's debate whether or not to fund opening the War Memorial Pool, and amidst uncertainty about the opening of LSSE's Amherst Community Aquatics Center.

Annual Budget

For FY 08, the Town Manager called for Department-wide, across-the-board cuts. Drawing directly from LSSE's tax support, the Department and Commission's proposal to meet this goal included the following severe social services reductions: reducing program fee subsidies, eliminating some special needs assistance and proposing the closing of one outdoor pool (War Memorial Pool) and two wading pools. In response to these reduction proposals, LSSE Commissioners, staff and patrons presented clarifying and ardent evidence of LSSE's important social services mission and objectives.

Though a Town-wide budgetary override was attempted and the swimming and wading pools were included as part of the override menu, Amherst voters did not approve the May 1st override. In an attempt to abide by the consequences of the failed override, Town Meeting initially voted to close the War Memorial Pool and wading pools. Less than one week later, however, Town Meeting conducted a second lengthy and impassioned debate, reversing this decision and voting to keep the War Memorial Pool open for the 2007 summer season.

Capital Projects

Plum Brook Athletic Fields

The Plum Brook Athletic Field construction project continued to present itself as a challenging site, particularly during undesirable weather conditions. In July, construction work began anew after months of inactivity due to particularly relentless rainstorms the previous spring and early summer, which left a wet and unworkable site. Construction continued through mid-summer, fall and then, because of some mild weather, even into early winter (December). The site received final grading, irrigation lines were set, many of the plantings were installed and the parking lot was paved. By December the entire field was seeded, though some of the seeding had been finished late and would require additional attention in the warmer months.

Mild fall weather allowed for a partial grass and seedling field coverage before winter. In order to thoroughly protect the site and provide closure prior to winter, mulch hay was added to all fields. Some potentially vulnerable areas received sod, and additional erosion control measures were implemented. All steps were taken to safeguard the site and adjacent resource areas.

When spring arrived, a stronger and healthier stand of grass surfaced. Our project Environmental Compliance Monitor continued to make monthly site checks and reported that the site was stable and completely vegetated by June 2007.

Groff Park Restroom

In 2004, the Town of Amherst Department of Public Works (DPW) created a design and site plan for a new Groff Park restroom facility. In the fall of 2005, the Amherst DPW demolished the old restroom, and in the spring of 2007 the Amherst DPW began construction of the new facility. The plans for the facility included handicapped-accessible restrooms, a storage area and a concessions stand. As of June 2007, the facility was not yet open to the public; however, the end of the construction appeared to be in sight.

Cherry Hill Golf Course

On August 11, 2006, the Town Manager returned responsibility for the administration of the Cherry Hill Golf Course to LSSE, following a 17-year interval in which the Amherst Conservation Department had oversight responsibilities for Cherry Hill. LSSE Program Director Barbara Bilz was tapped to manage the course. Goals were set high and included reviewing and overhauling course operations in order to create renewed customer satisfaction and to establish a more financially successful base.

In late winter and early spring and in keeping with a pledge made to Town Meeting, the Town Manager decided to advertise a Request for Proposals (RFP) for others to operate the course. Two separate RFP's were let; however, the Town Manager determined that no successful bidders had emerged. By the beginning of May it was clear that LSSE would continue to administer the management of the course through FY 07 and into FY 08.

Dan Engstrom, former Golf Course Superintendent, was asked to lead the Cherry Hill Grounds Crew, but left his position in February of 2007. Left with a skeleton crew of two veteran part-

time turf employees, Barbara Bilz and staff succeeded in accomplishing a number of improvements by the end of June 2007.

Course Improvements

Grounds maintenance is the backbone of any golf course operation. The following improvements, made in FY 07, resulted in a course which could boast some of the best greens in Western Massachusetts and an overall enhanced playing experience:

- fairway improvements, reconfiguration of shrubs and trees on #7, opening up the view to the green
- tee boxes improved at holes 2, 4, 5
- drainage improvements on holes 1, 7
- bunker improvement over entire course
- removal of hazardous trees and unsightly debris
- deep tined fairways and tee boxes
- capital plan developed and implemented

With a strong grounds maintenance plan underway, Barbara Bilz next put her marketing, development and administrative skills to work to establish new clinics, tournaments, collaborations, and membership opportunities throughout FY 07.

The vision for a new Cherry Hill Golf Course was created with the long-range objective of providing a friendly and hospitable environment that would feel welcoming to all customers but especially to women, families, youth and individuals of diverse social, cultural and economic backgrounds. Progress toward this objective was substantial and included the following milestones:

Clinics, Camps, Grants, Tournaments, Leagues

- first ever women's clinic – 75 participants
- first ever youth clinic – 20 participants
- B. Bontempo Junior Golf Camp added
- EXCEL youth golf camps
- LSSE youth golf day camps
- new tournaments in addition to existing tournaments
- "Sticks for Kids" grant awarded, providing for bags, clubs and equipment for youth development program
- 20% increase over 2006 in Women's League participation.

Clubhouse and General Improvements, Marketing and Concessions

- clubhouse facelift for family-friendly atmosphere
- customer service procedures, staff orientation/training, staff policy manual development, tournament and outing procedures and registration information formulated
- Cherry Hill Golf course website launched- www.cherryhillgolf.org
- promotional pamphlets and newsletter created and distributed widely
- radio, print and internet advertising schedule established and implemented
- Friends of Cherry Hill Advisory Board established
- new membership categories established and marketed: Associate Membership, Corporate Membership, etc.

- signature special events planned for wider year-round use of the course, including *Winterfest* and a Disc Golf tournament
- concessions operation handled in-house.

To promote the Cherry Hill Golf Course to an even wider audience, Barbara Bilz took advantage of Amherst's rich resources within the University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMass). Important collaborations were formed with the following entities:

- the UMass Stockbridge School to improve course improvements
- the UMass Conference Services for marketing purposes
- the UMass Hospitality and Tourism Department in an advisory capacity
- the UMass Professional Women's Network to offer special clinics to members.

Cherry Hill Golf Course Fiscal Achievements

- In-house concessions arrangements netted a \$5,337 surplus, an increase of \$4,837 over the previous year's contractual arrangement.
- In a year of change and uncertainty, the most compelling story about the Cherry Hill Golf Course was the good news announced at the end of the fiscal year. In June 2007, LSSE's financial projection was confirmed. Although the tax appropriated Cherry Hill budget had been exceeded, Cherry Hill's revenue also had been exceeded, and for the first time ever in the history of the Town course, revenue exceeded expenses.

LSSE Program Statistics	FY 07	FY 06
Aquatics		
Outdoor Pools- Lessons	573	550
Outdoor Pools Memberships	154	180
Indoor Pool – Lessons	511	628
Indoor Pool- Memberships	81	138
Total	1,319	1,496
Sports		
Youth Sports Camps	880	841
Youth Basketball	653	652
Youth Football	76	77
Adult Softball	32 teams	33 teams
Adult Volleyball	4 teams	4 teams
Skiing/Snowboarding	144	184
Ultimate	597	584
Sandlot Programs- Adult	741	216
Sandlot Programs- Youth	39	0
Girls Softball	120	106
Youth Soccer	1,504	1,440
Total	4,790	4,137

	FY 07	FY 06
Vacation and Day Camps		
Outdoor Challenge	156	172
Early Adventures	201	226
Adventure Playground	614	443
Vacation Camps	89	90
Prime Time	78	66
Total	1,138	997
Performing Arts		
Community Theater Tickets	4,546	4,253
Valley Light Opera Tickets	1,829	1,824
Total	6,375	6,077
Youth Classes		
Instructional	288	166
Visual Arts	112	132
Total	400	298
Adult Education		
Hobbies	66	73
Health	265	219
Sports	12	23
Performing Arts	236	261
Personal Development	350	106
Visual Arts	157	171
Total	1,086	853
Special Events		
Halloween	76	78
July 4 th	20,000	20,000
Total	20,076	20,078
Pavilion Rentals	86	49
Special Needs		
Registrants	237	206
Fee Subsidies – Households	187	186
Fee Subsidies – Individuals	567	545

Linda Chalfant, Director

LIBRARIES

Fiscal Year 2007

The Jones Library, Munson Memorial Library, North Amherst Library

Amherst's meeting place for education and cultural pursuits

Has technology made libraries obsolete? The facts show that libraries are providing more community services, not less. Over the past decade, the Amherst Town Libraries have experienced significant growth, especially in demand for audio and video titles and in requests for professional information assistance.

Libraries run on technology, producing a greater variety of services than ever before. Public computers and wireless Internet service are used over 1,000 times each week; in addition, people can use wireless service outside in the gardens after closing. Adult learners sign up for classes to develop their computer skills; sixty-four classes were given in FY 07. Borrowers can reserve books online any time, day or night, to be picked up at the most convenient branch location. Audio books are available in download and MP3s, audio tape, and CD versions. Scholars across the country search online, then come to Amherst to study the rare materials they found using the Library's website. Reference resources can be searched by entrepreneurs, teachers, and students from home or office computers, greatly expanding the reach of the Reference Room.

Even though the hours of library service have declined over the past ten years, access to print and audiovisual titles has expanded because of library computer networks. Interlibrary lending can be set in motion automatically, supported by a fast, free, state-funded delivery system. Every day, the delivery truck brings requested materials from all over the state. For example, one day the bins included DVD movies from Chicopee and South Hadley, antiques guides from Vineyard Haven, and research material from Salem State College, for use in Amherst. In ten years, delivery traffic has grown from 2,999 a year to 42,778 items via interlibrary loan (+ 1,331 %).

Checkouts	FY 97	FY 07	% Change
Total	507,640	560,189	+10.3%
Reference & Information Services			
Total	34,175	41,694	+22%
Amherst Population (MA Dept. of Revenue est.)	35,468	34,047	-4%

Libraries Connect People with Books, Authors and Local Artists

In the course of this fiscal year, Julius Lester entranced fans of mythology in a reading from *Cupid*, his retelling of the romance between Cupid and Psyche spiced with a southern flavor. Debby Applegate, the 2007 Pulitzer Prize winner for biography, revealed the secrets of her research for *The Most Famous Man in America: the Biography of Henry Ward Beecher*. Cammie McGovern, author of *Eye Contact*, spoke about the world of autism. Gale McClung recalled the challenges of World War II in *At War and at Home: One Family's World War II Correspondence*, edited by Gale and Robert McClung. Twelve poets came from around the country to share their work, at six readings in the jubilat/Jones poetry series. Mystery author Archer Mayor returned to read from his latest

detective novel, *The Second Mouse*. R. Todd Fenton introduced his travel book, *A Journey Into the Transcendentalists' New England*, and Catherine Sanderson addressed parents' concerns in *Slow and Steady Parenting: Active Child-Raising for the Long Haul*.

Free coffee and birthday cake were offered to everyone on "Jonesday," September 11, the 170th anniversary of the birthday of the Library's founder, Samuel Minot Jones. "Mr. Jones" was on hand to greet visitors and draw the winning raffle tickets for door prizes. Twenty-nine local artists connected with audiences in new shows every month at the Burnett Gallery. As part of Amherst's festive Art Walk downtown, the Gallery Committee hosted refreshments and a drawing for free art work at each opening.

Permanent residents seeking citizenship instruction and English language literacy training found a ready resource in the volunteer tutors of the English as a Second Language Center. This unique program offers flexible scheduling and instruction targeted at the individual needs of its 80 students. The Center's citizenship success rate is 100%.

The Children's Library is Alive!

Children learned about books, animals, bugs, owls, and bats at the Library. The Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society brought friendly animals for story time, and twelve hands-on science workshops encouraged youngsters to explore insect life and to make homes for toads, owls and other beneficial backyard creatures. Two hundred and seventy youngsters joined the fun in Summer Reading Clubs at Jones, North Amherst and Munson Libraries. Weekly story time, lap time for little ones, "Sing with your Baby" programs, and book club discussions developed reading skills. Chess Clubs and craft programs gave children opportunities to learn new thinking skills. Nerissa and Katryna Nields gave an outstanding performance of music from their latest CD, during the annual Children's Music Series. Children in the Theater Workshop produced a musical performance of "Thor's Hammer and Freya's Necklace," based on a Norse folk tale. Teens were attracted to an Anime movie club and an X-Box Challenge, where teens competed in video games.

What's New in Local History?

The photo archives in Special Collections continue to be in high demand. For example, local historian Ed Wilfert mounted an excellent photo history exhibit in the Library's atrium, documenting the development of the Gray Street neighborhood. Quabbin photographs and construction documentation from the Special Collections were featured in the "Quabbin Reflections" exhibit at Mt. Holyoke College.

Users of "Heritage Quest" and "Ancestry Online" pursued genealogy research online. Over 2,000 visitors every month use the research information on poets Robert Frost and Emily Dickinson on the Library's web pages; 200 more view the historical images available at <http://dlib.cwmars.org>. Substantial additions were donated to the collections on poet Robert Francis, and the Library accepted Pat Schneider's archive of published works, honoring her achievements and the work of Amherst Writers and Artists. Amherst College donated copies of the *Amherst Bulletin* from 1997 to 2005 on microfilm for the archives. The long-awaited fine arts inventory project was launched, staffed by an intern from the University of Massachusetts.

Public Programs Depend on Private Contributors

- 149 volunteers donated more than 15,900 hours of work. Library services couldn't keep going without their help.

- The Annual Fund Drive topped \$45,000 for the first time! Two benefit events in cooperation with Mohawk Trail Concerts and the Ha Ha Sisterhood comedy improv group put extra fun into this year's Fund Drive. Many, many thanks to the 650 contributors who made it possible to buy new books for the libraries.
- The fabulous Friends of the Jones Library System sponsored most of the Library's literary and educational events. Friends enjoyed putting on the Books, Baskets and Chocolates Auction, the "Best of the Books" Book Sale, and, new this year, an auction of Bird Houses inspired by books from *Harry Potter* to Emily Dickinson. Friends' memberships and events raised \$40,245 to support the Town Libraries.
- The extended family of Clifton Johnson raised \$12,000 to protect, preserve, and promote the works of this unique local author, illustrator, artist, photographer, and editor.
- Private donations once again funded one afternoon of public service at the North Amherst and Munson branch libraries. The Library sincerely thanks all donors for making it possible to keep these special places open for everyone to use.
- Fundraising for the English as a Second Language program became a critical need in order to keep the center fully staffed next year. The Library is very grateful for the generous financial support of private contributors, local restaurants, Wal-Mart, Amherst College, a very generous anonymous donor, and the Patrick-Murray Inaugural Committee.
- The Emily Dickinson Collection received a very generous donation in memory of Kate Gilbert Hanke, one of the founders of the Friends of the Library. This gift was from Tamim A. and Susan Hanke Abouhalkah. The Dickinson Collection also received financial support from the Emily Dickinson International Society.
- Memorial donations from family and friends honored Robert McClung, author, trustee emeritus, and good friend of the Library; political activist Ken Mosakowski; Barbara Anderson; and Joseph Hopkins, who served as Massachusetts Library Commissioner from Amherst.

Jones Library, Inc. Endowment. Vanguard Group Asset Management Services reports the market value of the Jones Library, Inc. Endowment Fund as \$9,042,944 as of June 30, 2007.

Library Trustees

Kathleen Wang, President
 Anita Page, Vice President
 Patricia Holland, Treasurer
 Ann Grose, Clerk
 Merrylees (Molly) Turner, Asst. Treasurer
 Nonny Burack, Trustee

Library Staff

Bonnie Isman, Library Director
 Sondra Radosh, Asst. Director & Children's Librarian
 Amy Anaya, Head of Circulation Services
 Beth Girshman, Adult Services Librarian
 Susan Hugus, Munson Memorial Librarian
 Rosemary Loomis, Head of Reference
 Tevis Kimball, Curator of Special Collections
 Carolyn Platt, Head of Technical Services
 Janet Ryan, Reference Librarian
 Maggie Spiegel, North Amherst Librarian

Lynne Weintraub, ESL Coordinator
Henry Allan, Computer Technician
Tina Swift, Administrative Assistant
Chris White, Cataloging Technician
John Imbimbo, Building Supervisor
Kate Boyle, Special Collections Assistant
Silvia Brinkerhoff, Children's Library
Assistant
Miguel Otero, Assistant Custodian
Colin Faith, Assistant Custodian
Seth Rothberg, Asst. Circulation Supervisor
Lace Stokes, Sunday Supervisor
Cathy Verts, Audiovisual Technician
Theresa Atteridge, Library Assistant
Patrick Borezo, Library Assistant
Bryan Grabigel, Office Clerk/Receptionist
Ralph Hurwitz, AV Assistant
Judy Lincoln, Library Assistant
Joan Pyfrom, Cataloging Assistant
Tomi Eve, Library Assistant

PART-TIME STAFF: Cynthia Backlund, Roxanne Brown-Boyd, Nathan Cartel, Laura Castano-Longey, Lucy Chen, Erin Daly, Jennifer Ditkoff, Janice Doyama, Melissa Flynn, Sean Flynn, Jessica Fortin, Julie Gilfeather, Tara Herzig, Jean Holden, Karen Kowles, Jessica Lamson, Paula Lane-Major, Robin Levine, Sheila McCormick, Susan McCoy, Barbara McGlynn, Wanda Meck, Jill Palmer, Jose Paredes, Danya Rubin, Lisa Slocum, Valerie Steinberg, Corinna Stokes, Mary Weidensaul, Kimberly Wells.

Officers:

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Mike Giles, Vice President
Sterling Bush, Secretary
Conrad Wogrin, Treasurer
Doris Holden, Assistant Treasurer
Katie George, Program Chair
Edith Byron, Membership

Directors:

Kathy Caputo
Ellen Goodwin
George Goodwin
Joanne Hall
Chris Hoffmann
Lewis Mainzer
Joan Milam
Dorothy Morse
Nancy Wise

Beds for Books:

Sandra Mullin
Barbara Ford

Library Checkouts - FY 07	
TOTAL	560,189
Jones Library	432,122
Munson Memorial	44,309
North Amherst	40,980
Sent to other libraries for checkout	42,778

Reference and Research Assistance FY 07 - In person, by telephone and email	
TOTAL	41,694
Jones – Adults	21,446
Jones – Kids	6,812
Special Collections	3,227
Branch Libraries	9,165
ESL Center	1,044

Cataloged Collections Available June 30, 2007	
Books	210,169
Audio & Visual Items	23,897
Electronic & Other Materials	669
Purchased in FY 07	9,060

Donations added	1,242
Items Withdrawn in FY 07	10,886

Amherst Residents with C/W MARS cards June 30, 2007	
Adults	16,180
Children, 4 to 13 yrs.	2,097
New borrowers registered in FY 07	2,430

Computer Sign-ups FY 07	
TOTAL	44,691
Jones - Reference	39,527
Special Collections	249
Jones – Kids	2,568
Branch Libraries	2,347

Events and Public Meetings FY 07	
TOTAL	773
All library events for adults	141
All library events for kids	231
Public meetings and events	401

MUNSON MEMORIAL BUILDING

Fiscal Year 2007

Munson Memorial Building, located on the South Amherst Common, continues as a center of activity for the Town of Amherst. The handsome white building was built in 1925 with money donated to the Town by Mrs. Parnell Munson. Mrs. Munson wished the building to be named in memory of her husband and stipulated that a library should always be included in the building. This stipulation has always been fulfilled by the presence of the Munson Branch of the Jones Library. Munson also serves as the Precinct 8 polling place for the Town. Many groups rent the beautiful upstairs auditorium, whose windows look out on old apple orchard. The elegant wood floors regularly see use by a variety of dancers. A spacious downstairs room, furnished with a large meeting table and bordered by three small offices, is also available for rental and for community meetings. The building is used seven days a week, year round and is a wonderful resource for the Town.

Oversight of the maintenance and use of the building is in the hands of three trustees appointed by the Town Manager. The 2007 trustees are Claudia O'Brien, Chair; Johan Brongers, and Aaron Hayden. Johan Brongers resigned in July, due to his new position as Vice-President of American University of Afghanistan. Rentals of the building are scheduled by Town employees. Rental fees, including rent paid by the Jones Library, have consistently more than equaled the yearly budget. However, these funds are not set aside for the upkeep of the Munson but rather go into the Town's General Fund.

The Munson is a relatively old building and is always in need of careful attention to maintenance. The last major renovation of Munson dates back to 1989. In the last year, new locks were installed. Two volunteers, Sandra Clark and Chris Hern, have donated their time and expertise to improving the Munson grounds. Sandra has continued her splendid renovation of the walled garden and Chris Hern has revamped the south garden. Patrons of Munson thoroughly enjoy the gardens and express their pleasure at having such beautiful spaces for reflection.

Achieving completion of long-standing projects has been very difficult. Parking, heating systems updates and a shed for lawnmower are all on hold, even though most of these items were funded in the FY 03 capital expenditures budget passed by Town Meeting. The Trustees are pleased with the positive maintenance that took place this year; they look forward to seeing the remaining needs taken care of during this coming year.

Parking and public safety are of great concern to the Trustees, as the volume and speed of traffic have substantially increased over the years, causing safety hazards for visitors to the Munson. Several excellent options were presented by the Town engineers at public meetings with abutters and other townspeople. The Trustees are very grateful for the expert and excellent work done by the Public Works Department. We look forward to solving these safety issues.

Munson is a warm and inviting space. Please come visit this outstanding jewel on the South Amherst Common.

Submitted by Claudia O'Brien, Chair, Munson Memorial Building Trustees

PLANNING BOARD & PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Fiscal Year 2007

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the numerous land use, planning, and zoning activities in which the Planning Board and Department engaged during fiscal year 2007.

CURRENT PLANNING

As in previous years, development issues, permit applications, and preparation for the Master Plan occupied much of the time of the Board and Department during FY 07.

Table 1 provides a statistical review of the Department's activities, including the various permits it oversees, and zoning and other regulatory changes.

Table 1

Planning Board
Land Use & Zoning Activity

A.	<u>Review & Action</u>	<u># of Applications</u>
1.	Planning Board Special Permits	2
2.	Form A (Approval Not Required) Subdivisions	26
3.	Cluster Subdivision	2
4.	Standard Subdivision	4
5.	Subdivision Lot Releases	6
6.	Subdivision/Site Plan Escrow Releases	0
7.	Street Name Changes	0
8.	Development Authorization Requests	2
9.	Site Plan Review Requests	8
10.	Sign Plans Approved	1
11.	Lighting Plans Approved	2
12.	Landscape Plans Approved	2
13.	Scenic Road Requests	2
14.	Ch. 61A Removal Requests	3
B.	<u>Review & Recommendation</u>	
1.	Zoning Amendments	9
2.	Rules & Regulations Amendments	1
3.	Special Permits/Variations	43
4.	Street Acceptances	0
5.	Street Discontinuances	0

Some of the more significant planning development proposals and issues of FY 07 included the following:

Commercial/Institutional

- * site alterations associated with a memorial garden for the First Congregational Church
- * a significant expansion of Judie's Restaurant at 512 North Pleasant Street to include the area of an adjacent driveway and annexation of the former Barselotti's bar
- * construction of an 800 sq. ft. addition on the medical office building, at 170 University Drive, owned by Cooley Dickinson Hospital
- * expansion and improvement of Amherst College playing fields west of Pratt Field
- * façade renovation and expansion of the Bank of Western Massachusetts branch at East Pleasant and Pray Streets
- * extensive building façade renovations for the A.J. Hastings Newsdealers at 45 South Pleasant Street
- * expansion and site alterations for the National Yiddish Book Center
- * construction of a walk-up/drive-through bank kiosk structure to replace the burned Bank of America building at the corner of East Pleasant and Triangle Streets.

Residential

- * Site Plan Review (SPR) and definitive subdivision approval for the 8-unit Apple Brook cluster subdivision at 1184 West Street
- * amendment (revision of lot lines) for the South Middle Street cluster subdivision
- * application for Definitive approval for the 6-lot commercial Amherst Enterprise Park subdivision on Meadow Street
- * Preliminary approval for an 8-lot West Street cluster subdivision at 1184 West Street
- * Preliminary approval for a 10-lot Strawberry Field subdivision at 660-652 South East Street
- * Preliminary approval for the North Amherst Business Park commercial subdivision on Meadow Street
- * lot releases for home building in the Amherst Hills (Concord Road, Linden Ridge) and Palley Village subdivisions.

Zoning Issues

- * In response to a property owner's rezoning request and subsequent consideration of the surrounding area, to rezone properties on Main and High Streets. Referred back by Fall 2006 Special Town Meeting at Planning Board request.
- * To amend and clarify regulations governing development in the Farmland Conservation (FC) overlay district. Referred back by Fall 2006 Special Town Meeting at Planning Board and Agricultural Commission request.
- * To remove the vestigial Wetlands (WD) overlay district from the Zoning Bylaw and Map. Adopted by the Fall 2006 Special Town Meeting.
- * Amending the language regulating farm stands to comply with changes in state law. Adopted by the 2007 Annual Town Meeting.
- * To create zoning regulations for accessory farm stands (where none existed). Referred back to the Planning Board and Agricultural Commission by the 2007 Annual Town Meeting, at those bodies' request.
- * To change the permit requirement for a surface water impoundment in the Flood Prone Conservancy (FPC) District from a Special Permit to Site Plan Review approval, thereby improving the legal viability of the overall zoning district. Adopted by the 2007 Annual Town Meeting.
- * Responded to a citizen petition to alter the requirement for affordable housing units mandated under inclusionary zoning to apply only to units available to the lowest-income households and countable under the state Subsidized Housing Inventory (MGL Ch. 40B). Referred back to the Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee and Planning Board by the 2007 Annual Town Meeting.

MASTER/COMMUNITY PLANNING

Efforts continued on a number of long-range planning issues, while new issues and projects also involved the time and attention of the Board and Department.

Master Plan

See also the annual report of the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

Planning Board members and Planning Department staff assisted the Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) and the master planning consultant (ACP, Inc.) in organizing and carrying out the *Planning Amherst Together* public participation phase of the master planning process, including the initial drafting of goals, policies, objectives, and strategies by working groups. The *Planning Amherst Together* public participation process, which included a scientifically defensible survey, was highly successful. The process of turning the results of that public process into the usable and coherent elements of a master plan proved to be more of a challenge.

A decision by the Select Board to significantly increase the number of CPC members and change the composition of CPC membership during the middle of the *Planning Amherst Together* process – well after the contract had been signed with the master planning consultant and the public process was already underway – created some dislocation and delay. It also stripped the Planning Board representatives to the CPC of their status as voting members. Although these changes better assured an accurate representation of some specific elements of the range of community opinion, the timing and short-term impacts on the master planning process were unfortunate.

Additional, unplanned-for time had to be spent acquainting new members with the master planning process and bringing them up to speed. The new, significantly larger CPC required more time to conduct normal business and complete simple tasks. Time had to be spent resolving new conflicts and re-resolving old conflicts the previous CPC membership had successfully resolved and moved beyond. All of this consumed limited time available under the contract with the consultant, with the result that some hoped-for tasks and products – including projecting alternative futures for different areas of Amherst, looking more closely at the interaction of critical public interests in specific areas of Amherst, and developing detailed implementation approaches, etc. – could not be completed, or in some cases even attempted, and thus will not be included in the Master Plan. This work will have to be conducted separately, at additional cost, if only in staff and Town board/committee time and effort.

Following its expansion, the CPC lost ground and was thereafter consistently unable to meet its own deadlines in terms of providing information or products to the master planning consultant. While hard work by CPC members eventually developed a shared consensus, and important progress was made toward completion of the basic task of distilling community intentions and priorities identified in *Planning Amherst Together*, many opportunities to further develop and refine this work using the resources of the master planning consultant were lost.

Also, the community's political uncertainty and the unwillingness of some participants to accept or allow full professional participation by Amherst's Planning Department and other Town staff constrained the ways in which staff expertise and perspectives could support the planning process. Progress on draft goals, policies, objectives and strategies that might normally flow between Planning staff and the master planning consultant often had to be approved by the full CPC. As a consequence, the proposed master plan strategies developed by working groups could not be "ground-truthed" by the staff during strategy development – the strategies' legality, interaction with current and ongoing community activity, or other basic indices of viability could not be tested by the staff. For many master planning strategies, the process of "ground-truthing" will not occur until the very last stages of the Master Plan's development in FY 08.

Nonetheless, the *Planning Amherst Together* process – Amherst's community public participation process for its Master Plan – was highly successful in FY 07 and the expanded CPC worked very hard to achieve a successful working consensus founded on a shared priority for the overall community interest. At the end of FY 07, the CPC was making significant progress on the development of Amherst's master plan. The Planning Board eagerly anticipates receipt of a final draft in FY 08, so that the Board can complete the master planning process it set in motion nearly a decade ago, exercising its statutory responsibility to develop, review, and adopt a master plan for Amherst.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

During FY 07, the Planning Department continued to work with the Community Services Department and other Town departments, boards, and committees to develop and submit project proposals, and to prepare and review related potential projects.

The Planning Department also continued to manage CDBG housing rehabilitation loans from past CDBG projects, responding to requests to close out, subordinate, or amend such loans.

Downtown

In FY 07, the Planning Department continued to be involved in numerous aspects of downtown revitalization, including parking, public open space, historical issues, and public projects.

Ludmilla Pavlova-Gilham continued to serve as the Planning Board's representative to the Design Review Board, which reviews most exterior changes in downtown buildings and sites. However, because of difficulties in finding new members, the DRB had to try to operate with only three (3) of its full complement of five (5) members throughout FY 07. This made full review of major downtown projects very difficult – including, for example, the proposed Bank of America kiosk at the corner of East Pleasant and Triangle Streets.

The multi-year streetscape redesign and reconstruction of downtown sidewalks continued. The Planning Department assisted the Department of Public Works with development of designs for new sidewalk improvements on the east side of North Pleasant Street between Main Street and Kellogg Avenue. The Department worked with the Tree Warden, Public Shade Tree Committee and others on downtown street tree issues and the development of designs for streetscape improvements in other areas.

Housing

The Planning Department worked with the Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee (HP/FHC), Amherst Housing Authority (AHA), and the Community Preservation Act Committee to develop and pursue a number of projects to protect existing affordable housing units and provide for the creation of new affordable units. Pre-development analyses and examination of alternative approaches to affordable housing development at Olympia Drive continued in FY 07. Planning staff and the Planning Board's Zoning Subcommittee continued to research and further develop amendments to the Zoning Bylaw to encourage affordability in new residential development.

Historic Preservation

Using the 2005 Amherst Preservation Plan, the Historical Commission worked with Planning Department staff to develop proposals for historic preservation projects using CPA funds. The 2007 Annual Town Meeting appropriated a total of \$101,100 in CPA funds for historic preservation projects.

The Historical Commission began an historic study of the East Village Common, as well as a study of the potential for expanding the East Village National Historic Register District, working with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's historic preservation planner, Bonnie Parsons.

In FY 07, among other projects, the Planning Department and Historical Commission were involved in completing efforts to preserve the 1815 brick Federal Kimball House at 575 North East Street.

See also the Historical Commission's annual report.

Atkins Corner

During FY 07, the Planning Department continued to work with DPW on issues involved with redesign of the intersection and road system in this proposed new village center. One of the FY 07 CPA projects included funds for archeological study at the Bay Road/West Street intersection.

STAFF ASSISTANCE

Planning Department staff provide professional support and technical assistance to numerous Town boards and committees, local and regional boards, as well as Amherst citizens, community groups, other communities, and others. The Town boards and committees directly served by the Planning Department in FY 07 included:

- ❖ Planning Board
- ❖ Zoning Subcommittee
- ❖ Design Review Board
- ❖ Zoning Board of Appeals
- ❖ Historical Commission
- ❖ Town/Commercial Relations Committee
- ❖ Comprehensive Planning Committee
- ❖ Redevelopment Authority
- ❖ Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee
- ❖ 250th Anniversary Committee (Arts & Literature Subcommittee, History Subcommittee, etc.)
- ❖ UMass/Hadley/Amherst economic development dialogue
- ❖ UMass Campus planning effort

Other committees or bodies for whom the Planning Department provides more occasional assistance include:

- ❖ Public Transportation Committee & Bicycle Subcommittee
- ❖ Disabilities Access Advisory Committee
- ❖ Public Art Commission
- ❖ Community Preservation Act Committee
- ❖ Public Shade Tree Committee
- ❖ Greater Franklin County Economic Development Strategy Committee
- ❖ Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
- ❖ Valley Development Council (PVPC-sponsored body)
- ❖ Summit Land Use Task Force
- ❖ Amherst Regional Chamber of Commerce

PLANNING BOARD

During FY 07, new members Kathleen Anderson, Richard Howland, Susan Pynchon, Jonathan Shefftz, and Eduardo Suarez were appointed to the Board. Board members Rod Francis, Leandro Rivera, and Mary Scipioni resigned during the year. Member Carl Mailler declined to be reappointed after completing one 3-year term.

Planning Board members took advantage of training opportunities sponsored by the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative and training from Town Counsels Gary Brackett and Elaine Lucas.

At the end of the year, the Planning Board membership consisted of seven members: Aaron Hayden (Chair), Carl Mailler (Vice-Chair), Kathleen Anderson, Richard Howland, Susan Pynchon, Jonathan Shefftz, and Eduardo Suarez, with two vacancies.

PLANNING STAFF

During FY 07, Planning Department Intern Cana McCoy left to take a position with the Boston Redevelopment Authority. In her stead was hired Nathaniel Malloy, a graduate student at the UMass Dept. of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning. Mr. Malloy was immediately involved in many community planning projects, particularly the master planning process, and contributed significantly to the updating and computerization of permit applications and forms.

During FY 07, Planning Department personnel were involved in a wide variety of public outreach, including presentations to a number of community groups, and publication of *Planning Briefs*, the Department quarterly newsletter highlighting community planning projects, personnel, and issues of interest to the community.

Jonathan Tucker continued to serve as Planning Director during FY 07, completing his 22nd year with the Department. Associate Planner Christine Brestrup was hired internally to fill a vacant Senior Planner position – a well-deserved and long-overdue promotion. Other Planning Department staff included Senior Planner Niels la Cour, part-time Zoning Assistant Carolyn Holstein, and Management Assistant Sue Krzanowski, who completed her 19th year with the Planning Department. A vacant Associate Planner's position will be filled in FY 08.

Aaron Hayden
Chair

Jonathan Tucker
Planning Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Fiscal Year 2007

Message from the Chief

TRYING TO DO THE BEST WITH LESS

Your Amherst Police Department continues to be one of the most highly regarded and professional police departments in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It is a reputation that we are very proud of, and you should be too. The men and women of the Department work very hard, every day, to make sure that the citizens of Amherst, and visitors to the Town, receive quality police services whenever necessary. It is my desire to increase those services to you. However, due to a significant budget cut, this will not be possible for some time.

The impact of this cut has been substantial, but you may not have noticed. Due to reduced staffing levels, and in an effort to decrease costs, I have been forced to close the police station to walk-in business two mornings per week. Our records office, which has always been available to the public for 40 hours per week, is now closed half of that time. And the administrative offices, including mine, no longer have a secretary. As we get further along into the budget year, a further reduction of services might be necessary. But I promise you, the citizens of Amherst, the last thing I will reduce is the service we provide to you when you need us most. Patrol levels will be maintained as long as possible so that when you need us we will be there. Programs may have to be cut, the remaining Community Policing efforts reduced, and shifts realigned; and there may be fewer detectives to work on major crimes. But when you need us, we will be there. Our response time may be a little longer and you may be encouraged to report minor crimes and incidents on-line or to come into the station rather than an officer coming to you, but when you need us, we will be there. I promise.

Charles L. Scherpa
Chief of Police

POLICE PERSONNEL CHANGES
JULY 1, 2006 – JUNE 30, 2007

RESIGNATIONS:

Sworn Police Officers

Adam McNeal

April 13, 2006

Civilian Personnel

None

RETIRED:

None

NEW HIREES:

Sworn Police Officers

Michael W. Forcum

July 10, 2006

Jonathan E. Russell

April 23, 2007

Civilian Personnel

None

PROMOTION:

None

Amherst Police Department
Detective Bureau
Fiscal Year 2007

The detective bureau is under the command of Lieutenant Ronald A. Young. It is staffed by Sergeant Christopher P. Pronovost, Detective Christina Knightly, Detective David W. Foster, Detective James Damouras, Detective Brian T. Johnson, Detective Gabriel Ting, and Detective Janet M. Lopez. This fiscal year saw the addition of Detective Gregory Wise to the unit.

The mission of the detective bureau continues to be support of the patrol force. Other duties include self-initiated activity and case management. Major cases are handled within this unit, including robberies, narcotics investigations, child abuse cases, assaults, and sexual assaults.

Court-related functions are handled by the detectives, including case preparation, evidence control, case tracking, and probation coordination. Diversionary sentences, such as community service, are also handled by them.

This was a busy year for the detective bureau. Several serious assaults were investigated, including child abuse cases. Larcenies, as well as computer-related crimes, were also on the rise, as were reports of burglaries. A total of 203 people were charged through arrest, summons or indictment, for a total of 324 crimes.

Ronald A. Young
Lieutenant

Summation of Activity for Fiscal Year 2007

During fiscal year 2007, Amherst Police Department officers responded to a total of 18,328 calls for service, with a total of 27,752 responders. Why were there 27,752 responders? Several call types, such as domestic disturbances, fights and noise complaints, to name just a few, require multiple officers to respond, due to either the seriousness of the incident or the likelihood of multiple combatants. All of our calls for service include requests from the community, such as a citizen calling to report their vehicle was vandalized, as well as officer-generated activity, such as a drug law violation where a police officer, during routine or directed patrol, observed this activity and took action.

Of the 18,328 calls for service, Amherst officers wrote 585 criminal activity incident reports, which in turn included 899 criminal offenses. Many criminal activity incident reports include several crimes, such as when an officer responds to a burglary into a home the officer documents as having been burglarized – crime of Breaking and Entering – and several valuable items were stolen – crime of Larceny over \$250.

Amherst officers arrested 989 persons for criminal offenses, and an additional 411 persons were summonsed into court in-lieu of a custodial arrest. Also, 17 persons, all adults, were taken into protective custody for excessive alcohol consumption. Of all persons criminally charged or taken into protective custody, 8% were 17 years old or younger, 75% were between the ages of 18 and 24, 8% were between the ages of 25 and 34, 8% were between the ages of 35 and 54 and 1% were over the age of 55.

The Amherst Police Department takes motor vehicle education and enforcement seriously. During FY 07, 5,087 citations were written for a total of 6,145 offenses. There were no motor vehicle fatalities in fiscal year 2007, and we are proud that our community has had four consecutive fiscal years without a motor vehicle fatality.

Several of our officers received awards this past year. Officer Dominic Corsetti, Officer Scott Gallagher and Officer Richard MacLean received awards from Mothers Against Drunk Driving for their diligent enforcement of the drunk driving laws. Officer MacLean was one of only five police officers statewide to additionally receive the *Law Enforcement 100 Award*, a distinguished award given to those Massachusetts police officers who made one hundred or more drunk driving arrests in the last 2-3 years. Five other Amherst police officers, Sergeant Christopher Pronovost, Sergeant Brian Daly, Officer Linda Newcomb, Officer David Rhodes, and Detective Gabriel Ting all received awards from the Hampshire County Emergency Medical Services for their heroic response and lifesaving efforts at a residential gas explosion in August of 2006. While all of our officers do an exceptional job each year, we are extremely honored that these officers received special recognition for their efforts.

FISCAL YEAR 2007: 27,752 responding officers to 18,328 Calls for Service

CALL TYPE	# CALLS	# OF RESPONDERS
209 A	290	336
911 Hang Up	200	333
Abandoned M V	3	3
Admin Duty	248	294
Animal Admin Services	49	49
Animal Complaint	467	594
Annoying Call(s)	69	73
Arson / Bomb	4	34
Assault	66	133
Assist A F D	167	409
Assist Business/Agency	353	412
Assist Citizen	677	920
Assist Motorist	39	45
Assist Other Agency	356	405
Assist Other P D	320	504
B & E	123	248
B & E M V	105	117
Bank / A T M Alarm	41	88
Child Abuse	6	6
Citizen Transport	297	306
Civil Complaint	16	16
Commercial Alarm	475	1,005
Community Policing	368	479
Disabled Motor Vehicle	403	477
Disturbance	358	933
Domestic	195	565
Drug Law Violation	43	90
Escort	291	417
Fight	102	356
Follow Up	801	928
Forgery / Counterfeit	2	3
Fraud	27	28
House Check	98	101
Larceny	319	377
Liquor I D Check	107	172
Liquor Law Violation	240	431
Located Person	12	16
Lock Up Incident	2	2
M V Complaint	158	223
M V Crash P D	825	1,149
M V Crash P I	118	350
M V Pursuit	1	5
M V Stop	1,375	1,879
Medical / Mental	107	267
Medical Assist	486	807
Missing Person	19	31

Missing Property	185	187
Noise Complaint	1,175	2,619
Open Door/Window	951	1,010
PD Mutual Aid Into Amherst	1	
Parking Ban	107	116
PERMITS	63	65
Prisoner Monitor/Booking	77	84
Prisoner Transport	185	203
Prop/Evid Admin	166	207
Protective Custody	13	31
Rape	8	34
Recovered M V	20	33
Recovered Property	437	451
Residential Alarm	160	329
Robbery	7	39
Security Check	216	258
Sex Offense	24	37
Shoplifting	31	57
Stolen M V	24	38
Summons Service	350	353
Suspicious	887	1,687
Suspicious Motor Vehicle	418	577
T B L Violation	59	74
Traffic	678	849
Traffic Enforcement	355	412
Traffic Monitor	14	16
Trespass	44	72
Unattended Death	11	54
Vandalism	343	408
Warrant Service	207	530
Well Being Check	284	506
	18,328	27,752

During FY 07, the Amherst Police Department wrote 585 criminal offense reports, documenting 899 separate crimes that occurred. Below is a summation of the crimes that were reported that required an incident report be generated.

TYPE OF CRIME REPORTED

A&B	53
A&B ON +60/DISABLED WITH INJURY	1
A&B ON CHILD WITH INJURY	2
A&B WITH DANGEROUS WEAPON	15
ABUSE PREVENTION ORDER, VIOL PROBATE CT	1
ABUSE PREVENTION ORDER, VIOLATE	4
ACCESSORY AFTER THE FACT	1
ACCOST/ANNOY PERSON OF OPPOSITE SEX	1
ANIMAL, CRUELTY TO	1
ARSON OF DWELLING HOUSE	2
ASSAULT	6
ASSAULT & BATTERY - Serious Bodily Injury	4
ASSAULT IN DWELLING, ARMED	1
ASSAULT IN DWELLING, FIREARM-ARMED	1
ASSAULT TO RAPE	1
ASSAULT TO ROB, ARMED	1
ASSAULT TO ROB, UNARMED	1
ASSAULT W/DANGEROUS WEAPON	8
ATTEMPT TO COMMIT CRIME	9
B&E DAYTIME FOR FELONY	34
B&E FOR MISDEMEANOR	27
B&E NIGHTTIME FOR FELONY	121
BOMB THREAT, FALSE	1
BUILDING, VANDALIZE	1
BURGLARY, UNARMED	2
BURN BUILDING	1
BURN MOTOR VEHICLE	1
CHILD ENDANGERMENT WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE	1
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, POSSESS	1
COUNTERFEIT NOTE, POSSESS	1
CREDIT CARD FRAUD OVER \$250	3
CREDIT CARD FRAUD UNDER \$250	7
CREDIT CARD, FALSE STATEMENT TO OBTAIN	1
CREDIT CARD, IMPROPER USE OVER \$250	1
CREDIT CARD, IMPROPER USE UNDER \$250	6
CREDIT CARD, LARCENY OF	3
DANGEROUS WEAPON, POSSESS WHILE COMMIT BREACH OF PEACE	1
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY +\$250, MALICIOUS	18
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY +\$250, WANTON	11
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY -\$250, MALICIOUS	20
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY -\$250, WANTON	7

DISORDERLY CONDUCT	4
DRUG VIOLATION NEAR SCHOOL/PARK	2
DRUG, POSSESS / CULTIVATE TO DISTRIB CLASS D	3
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS A	1
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS B	3
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS B, SUBSQ.OFF.	1
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS C	1
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS D	9
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS D, SUBSQ.OFF.	1
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS E	1
DRUG, POSSESS TO DISTRIB CLASS C	1
DRUG, UNLAWFUL MANUFACTURE CLASS C	1
EXPLOSION	
EXPLOSION, MALICIOUS	1
EXTORTION BY THREAT OF INJURY	2
FIREARM IN FELONY, POSSESS	1
FIREARM WITHOUT FID CARD, POSSESS	1
FIREARM WITHOUT FID CARD, SUBSQ.OFF.	1
FIREARM, CARRY WITHOUT LICENSE	1
FIREARM, LARCENY OF	1
FORGERY OF CHECK	1
HARASSMENT, CRIMINAL	3
HOME INVASION	1
HOME INVASION, FIREARM –ARMED	1
IDENTITY FRAUD	1
INDECENT A&B ON CHILD UNDER 14	7
INDECENT A&B ON PERSON 14 OR OVER	2
INDECENT A&B ON RETARDED PERSON	11
INFERNAL MACHINE, POSSESS	2
INTIMIDATION	1
LARCENY BY CHECK OVER \$250	1
LARCENY FROM BUILDING	2
LARCENY FROM PERSON	2
LARCENY FROM PERSON +65	4
LARCENY OVER \$250	1
LARCENY OVER \$250 BY SINGLE SCHEME	200
LARCENY OVER \$250 FROM +60/DISABLED	1
LARCENY UNDER \$250	3
LARCENY UNDER \$250 BY FALSE PRETENSE	95
LARCENY UNDER \$250 FROM +60/DISABLED	2
LEAVE SCENE OF PERSONAL INJURY	3
LEAVE SCENE OF PROPERTY DAMAGE	1
LEWDNESS, OPEN AND GROSS	3
LIQUOR, PERSON UNDER 21 POSSESS	1
LIQUOR, TRANSPORT UNLAWFULLY	3
MARKED LANES VIOLATION	1
MOTOR VEH, LARCENY OF	1
MOTOR VEH, MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO	21
MOTOR VEH, REMOVE IMPROPERLY	6

MOTOR VEH, TAKING & STEALING PARTS	1
OUI LIQUOR	1
POLICE OFFICER, IMPERSONATE	1
PRESCRIPTION, UTTER FALSE, SUBSQ.OFF.	1
RAPE	1
RAPE OF CHILD, STATUTORY	11
RAPE, AGGRAVATED	1
RECEIVE STOLEN PROPERTY +\$250	1
RECEIVE STOLEN PROPERTY -\$250	3
REPORTED STOLEN VEHICLE	1
ROBBERY, ARMED	1
ROBBERY, UNARMED	3
SHOPLIFTING \$100+ BY CONCEALING MDSE	4
SHOPLIFTING BY ASPORTATION	2
SHOPLIFTING BY CONCEALING MDSE	1
SPEEDING IN VIOL SPECIAL REGULATION	1
SUSPICIOUS	1
TBL A2 S3: UNLAWFUL NOISE	1
TBL A2 S6: OPEN CONTAINER OF ALCOHOL	20
TBL A24 S4: UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF KEG	1
TELEPHONE CALLS, ANNOYING	12
TELEPHONE CALLS, OBSCENE	4
THREAT TO COMMIT CRIME	1
UNNATURAL ACT WITH CHILD -16	4
USE MV WITHOUT AUTHORITY	3
UTTER COUNTERFEIT NOTE	4
UTTER FALSE CHECK	1
VANDALIZE PROPERTY	7
WITNESS, INTIMIDATE	4
"NO CRIME" INCIDENT REPORTS	2
585 Criminal Offense Reports Generated	185
	899 total
	crimes
	reported

PERSONS CRIMINALLY CHARGED, FY 2007

	FY 06	FY 07	Change	% Change
Summonses	299	411	113	27%
On View Custodies	932	1006	74	7%
Calls For Service	17707	18,328	621	3%
Dispatched Units	26319	27,752	1433	5%

ADULTS

Arrested offenders	968
Summonses	385
Protective Custody	17

JUVENILES

Arrested offenders	21
Summonses	26
Protective Custody	0

TOTAL CRIMINAL OFFENSES CHARGED AT TIME OF ARREST FY 07
1,418 total arrests with criminal offenses

CRIMINAL OFFENSE CHARGED AT TIME OF ARREST	TOTAL
A&B	93
A&B ON +60/DISABLED WITH INJURY	1
A&B ON POLICE OFFICER	13
A&B WITH DANGEROUS WEAPON	18
A&B by Means of a Dangerous Weapon, Pregnant Person	1
A&B, Pregnant Person	3
A7S4 FAILURE TO USE CARE IN STARTING	2
ABUSE PREVENTION ORDER, VIOLATE	18
ACCESSORY AFTER THE FACT	1
ALCOHOL IN MV, POSSESS OPEN CONTAINER OF	18
ANIMAL, CRUELTY TO	1
ARRESTED ON WARRANT INITIATED BY OTHER AGENCY	98
ASSAULT	6
ASSAULT & BATTERY - Serious Bodily Injury	14
ASSAULT IN DWELLING, ARMED	1
ASSAULT ON AMBULANCE PERSONNEL	1
ASSAULT TO ROB, UNARMED	1
ASSAULT W/DANGEROUS WEAPON	6
ATTEMPT TO COMMIT CRIME	7
B&E DAYTIME FOR FELONY	10
B&E FOR MISDEMEANOR	7
B&E NIGHTTIME FOR FELONY	31
BRAKES VIOLATION, MV	1
BURGLARIOUS INSTRUMENT, POSSESS	4
CHILD ENDANGERMENT WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE	2
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, POSSESS	1
COCAINE, POSSESS TO DISTRIBUTE	1
CREDIT CARD FRAUD OVER \$250	1
CREDIT CARD FRAUD UNDER \$250	3
CREDIT CARD, IMPROPER USE OVER \$250	2
CREDIT CARD, IMPROPER USE UNDER \$250	1
CREDIT CARD, LARCENY OF	2
CROSSWALK VIOLATION	1
DANGEROUS WEAPON ON SCHOOL GROUNDS,CARRY	1
DANGEROUS WEAPON, POSS WHILE COMMITTING BREACH	3
PEACE	
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY +\$250, MALICIOUS	14
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY +\$250, WANTON	9
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY -\$250, MALICIOUS	14
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY -\$250, WANTON	3
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	80
DISTURBING THE PEACE	1
DRUG VIOLATION NEAR SCHOOL/PARK	5
DRUG, DISTRIBUTE CLASS B	1
DRUG, DISTRIBUTE CLASS D	3

DRUG, POSSESS / CULTIVATE TO DISTRIB CLASS D	12
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS A	3
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS B	17
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS B, SUBSQ.OFF.	3
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS C	6
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS D	135
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS D, SUBSQ.OFF.	12
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS E	7
DRUG, POSSESS TO DISTRIB CLASS B, SUBSQ.	1
DRUG, POSSESS TO DISTRIB CLASS C	1
DRUG, UNLAWFUL MANUFACTURE CLASS C	1
DRUNKENNESS	2
EQUIPMENT VIOLATION, MISCELLANEOUS MV	4
EXPLOSION, MALICIOUS	1
FALSE NAME/SSN, ARRESTEE FURNISH	4
FIREARM WITHOUT FID CARD, POSSESS	3
FIREARM WITHOUT FID CARD, SUBSQ.OFF.	1
FIREARM, CARRY WITHOUT LICENSE	2
FIREFIGHTER, INTERFERE WITH	1
FIREWORKS, POSSESS UNLAWFUL	2
FORGERY OF CHECK	2
FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE ON COURT WARRANT	2
HARASSMENT, CRIMINAL	2
HARSH/OBJECTIONAL NOISE	3
HEADLIGHTS, FAIL DIM	2
IDENTIFY SELF, MV OPERATOR REFUSE	3
IMPROPER OPERATION OF MV, ALLOW	1
INDECENT A&B ON PERSON 14 OR OVER	5
INDECENT A&B ON RETARDED PERSON	1
INDECENT EXPOSURE	1
INFERNAL MACHINE, POSSESS	1
INSPECTION/STICKER, NO	12
KEEP RIGHT FOR ONCOMING MV, FAIL TO	1
LARCENY OVER \$250	41
LARCENY OVER \$250 BY SINGLE SCHEME	1
LARCENY OVER \$250 FROM +60/DISABLED	1
LARCENY UNDER \$250	22
LARCENY UNDER \$250 BY FALSE PRETENSE	1
LARCENY UNDER \$250 FROM +60/DISABLED	1
LEAVE SCENE OF PERSONAL INJURY	3
LEAVE SCENE OF PROPERTY DAMAGE	6
LICENSE NOT IN POSSESSION	6
LICENSE RESTRICTION, OPERATE MV IN VIOL	1
LICENSE REVOKED AS HTO, OPERATE MV WITH	2
LICENSE REVOKED, OPERATE MV WITH	7
LICENSE SUSPENDED FOR OUI, OPER MV WITH	3
LICENSE SUSPENDED, OP MV WITH	28
LICENSE SUSPENDED, OP MV WITH, SUBSQ.OFF	9
LICENSE/REGIS/PLATES, REFUSE PRODUCE	1

LIGHTS VIOLATION, MV	20
LIQUOR ID CARD/LICENSE, FALSE/MISUSE	25
LIQUOR TO PERSON UNDER 21, SELL/DELIVER	16
LIQUOR, PERSON UNDER 21 POSSESS	429
LIQUOR, PERSON UNDER 21 POSSESS, SUBSQ.	7
LIQUOR, PERSON UNDER 21 PROCURE	2
LIQUOR, TRANSPORT UNLAWFULLY	2
MARIHUANA, POSSESS	1
MARKED LANES VIOLATION	72
MOTOR VEH, LARCENY OF	4
MOTOR VEH, REMOVE IMPROPERLY	1
NAME/ADDRESS CHANGE, FL NOTIFY RMV OF	1
NEGLIGENT OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	5
NOISY & DISORDERLY HOUSE, KEEP	1
NUMBER PLATE VIOLATION	16
OPERATING AFTER REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION	6
OUI DRUGS	2
OUI LIQUOR	127
OUI LIQUOR, 2ND OFFENSE	13
OUI LIQUOR, 3RD OFFENSE	1
OUI LIQUOR, 4TH OFFENSE	1
PASSING VIOLATION	1
PRESCRIPTION, UTTER FALSE, SUBSQ.OFF.	1
PRESUMPTIVE CHINS	1
PROTECTIVE CUSTODY	17
RAILROAD TRACK, WALK/RIDE ON	1
RAPE, AGGRAVATED	1
RECEIVE STOLEN PROPERTY +\$250	5
RECEIVE STOLEN PROPERTY -\$250	9
RECKLESS OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	1
RESIST ARREST	33
RESTAURANT, DEFRAUD	1
RIGHT LANE, FAIL DRIVE IN	3
RIGHT TURN ON RED WHERE PROHIBITED	3
RIOT, FAIL DISPERSE	6
RMV DOCUMENT, FORGE/MISUSE	5
RMV DOCUMENT, POSSESS/USE FALSE/STOLEN	4
ROBBERY, ARMED	1
SCHOOL, DISTURB	5
SEAT BELT, FAIL WEAR	2
SEX OFFENDER FAIL TO REGISTER	4
SHOPLIFTING \$100+ BY CONCEALING MDSE	3
SHOPLIFTING BY ASPORTATION	2
SHOPLIFTING BY CONCEALING MDSE	8
SIGNAL, FAIL TO	4
SPEEDING	6
SPEEDING IN VIOL SPECIAL REGULATION	33
STATE HWAY TRAFFIC VIOLATION	3
STOP FOR POLICE, FAIL	3

STOP/YIELD, FAIL TO	16
TBL A2 S3: UNLAWFUL NOISE	167
TBL A2 S6: OPEN CONTAINER OF ALCOHOL	200
TBL A24 S4: UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF KEG	33
TBL A5 S1: ONE WAY STREET VIOLATION	2
TBL A7 S4: FAIL TO USE CARE/BACKING	1
TBL A7 S4: FAIL TO USE CARE/STARTING	5
TBL A7 S4: FAIL TO USE CARE/STOPPING	5
TBL A7 S4: FAIL TO USE CARE/TURNING	10
THREAT TO COMMIT CRIME	7
TRASH, LITTER FROM MV	3
TRESPASS	10
TURN, IMPROPER	2
UNINSURED MOTOR VEHICLE	2
UNLICENSED OPERATION OF MV	17
UNREGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLE	2
USE MV WITHOUT AUTHORITY	6
UTTER COUNTERFEIT NOTE	1
UTTER FALSE CHECK	3
VANDALIZE PROPERTY	5
WITNESS, INTIMIDATE	13
WANTON/RECKLESS CONDUCT CAUSING SERIOUS	1
PHYS/SEXUAL ABUSE ON CHILD	
YIELD AT INTERSECTION, FAIL	2

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES, FY 07

MV CRASH REPORTED IN PERSON OR BY MAIL	449
MV CRASH INVESTIGATED REQUIRING POLICE REPORTS	744
MV CRASH WITH CITATIONS ISSUED	317
MV CRASH TOTAL CITATIONS ISSUED	294
MV CRASH WITH PERSONAL INJURY	98
MV CRASH TOTAL INJURED PERSONS	127
MV CRASH INVOLVING PEDESTRIANS	9
MV CRASH INVOLVING BICYCLES	9
MV CRASH INVOLVING MOTORCYCLES	6
MV CRASH INVOLVING WHEELCHAIRS	0
MV CRASH WITH FATALITIES	0
MV CRASH / HIT AND RUN	78

MOTOR VEHICLE CITATIONS, FY 07

5087 Citations Written with a total of 6145 Violations

Violation Totals

A7S4 FAILURE TO USE CARE IN STARTING	12
AFTERMARKET LIGHTING, NONCOMPLIANT	2
ALCOHOL IN MV, POSSESS OPEN CONTAINER OF	19
BRAKES VIOLATION, MV	36
BREAKDOWN LANE VIOLATION	1
CHILD 5-12 WITHOUT SEAT BELT	4
CROSSWALK VIOLATION	20
DRUG, DISTRIBUTE CLASS D	1
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS B	4
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS C	2
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS D	19
DRUG, POSSESS CLASS D, SUBSQ.OFF.	5
DRUG, POSSESS TO DISTRIB CLASS B, SUBSQ.	1
EMERGENCY VEHICLE, OBSTRUCT	1
EQUIPMENT VIOLATION, MISCELLANEOUS MV	169
HARSH/OBJECTONAL NOISE	16
HEADLIGHTS, FAIL DIM	5
IDENTIFY SELF, MV OPERATOR REFUSE	3
IMPROPER OPERATION OF MV, ALLOW	1
INSPECTION/STICKER, NO	409
INSPECTOR, UNCERTIFIED MV	1
JUNIOR OPERATOR OP 12-5 AM W/O PARENT	2
JUNIOR OPERATOR WITH PASSENGER UNDER 18	3
KEEP RIGHT FOR ONCOMING MV, FAIL TO	1
LEAVE SCENE OF PERSONAL INJURY	3
LEAVE SCENE OF PROPERTY DAMAGE	16
LICENSE NOT IN POSSESSION	127
LICENSE RESTRICTION, OPERATE MV IN VIOL	4
LICENSE REVOKED AS HTO, OPERATE MV WITH	2
LICENSE REVOKED, OPERATE MV WITH	13
LICENSE SUSPENDED FOR OUI, OPER MV WITH	4
LICENSE SUSPENDED, OP MV WITH	51
LICENSE SUSPENDED, OP MV WITH, SUBSQ.OFF	9
LIGHTS VIOLATION	3
LIGHTS VIOLATION, MV	512
LIQUOR ID CARD/LICENSE, FALSE/MISUSE	1
LIQUOR, PERSON UNDER 21 POSSESS	5
LIQUOR, PERSON UNDER 21 POSSESS, SUBSQ.	1
MARKED LANES VIOLATION	233
MOTORCYCLE EQUIPMENT VIOLATION	2
NAME/ADDRESS CHANGE, FL NOTIFY RMV OF	13
NEGLIGENT OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	9
NUMBER PLATE VIOLATION	326
NUMBER PLATE VIOLATION TO CONCEAL ID	4
OPERATING AFTER REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION	22
OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, IMPROPER	2

OUI DRUGS	2
OUI LIQUOR	127
OUI LIQUOR, 2ND OFFENSE	13
OUI LIQUOR, 3RD OFFENSE	1
OUI LIQUOR, 4TH OFFENSE	1
PASSING OVER RESTRICTIVE MARKINGS	11
PASSING VIOLATION	15
RECKLESS OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	1
REGISTRATION NOT IN POSSESSION	70
REGISTRATION STICKER MISSING	1
REGISTRATION SUSPENDED, OP MV WITH	10
RIGHT LANE, FAIL DRIVE IN	8
RIGHT TURN ON RED WHERE PROHIBITED	51
RMV DOCUMENT, POSSESS/USE FALSE/STOLEN	1
SAFETY STANDARDS, MV NOT MEETING RMV	11
SCHOOL BUS, FAIL STOP FOR	3
SEAT BELT, FAIL WEAR	109
SIGN, FAILURE TO OBEY DPW TRAFFIC	1
SIGNAL, FAIL TO	16
SLOW, FAIL TO	6
SNOW/REC VEH UNSAFE OPERATION	1
SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS VEH FL ID OWNER	1
SPEEDING	1,257
SPEEDING IN VIOL SPECIAL REGULATION	1,319
STATE HWAY TRAFFIC VIOLATION	14
STATE HWAY WRONG WAY	1
STOP FOR POLICE, FAIL	4
STOP/YIELD, FAIL TO	491
TBL A2 S4: OPERATE MV ON SIDEWALK	4
TBL A2 S6: OPEN CONTAINER OF ALCOHOL	1
TBL A5 S1: ONE WAY STREET VIOLATION	16
TBL A7 S2: FAIL TO GIVE WAY WHEN MV PASSING	1
TBL A7 S3: OBSTRUCT NORMAL TRAFFIC FLOW	1
TBL A7 S4: FAIL TO USE CARE/BACKING	16
TBL A7 S4: FAIL TO USE CARE/STARTING	41
TBL A7 S4: FAIL TO USE CARE/STOPPING	113
TBL A7 S4: FAIL TO USE CARE/TURNING	75
TBL A7 S5: FAIL TO STOP/FLASHING RED LIGHT	1
TBL A7 S5: FAIL TO STOP/STOP SIGN	4
TBL A7 S6: RED LIGHT VIOLATION	12
TRASH, LITTER FROM MV	3
TURN, IMPROPER	24
UNINSURED MOTOR VEHICLE	15
UNLICENSED OPERATION OF MV	47
UNREGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLE	70
UNSAFE OPERATION OF MV	8
USE MV WITHOUT AUTHORITY	4
YIELD AT INTERSECTION, FAIL	44
5,087 Citations Written with a total of 6,145 Violations	

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Fiscal Year 2007

The Amherst Public Safety Communications Center continues to be one of the most professional and progressive in Western Massachusetts. The consistently high quality of service provided by our women and men gives testimony to their dedication to public safety and to those they serve.

We began the new fiscal year buoyed by the vote at spring Town Meeting to create two additional full time positions. This has had the expected broad and positive impact.

The expansion of our staff size relieved us from extraordinary amounts of mandatory overtime. Morale is at an all-time high, while our turn-over rate is at an all-time low. This has resulted in preserving both our bodies and our budget, and a higher quality of response to emergencies: our staff is healthier and more experienced, and we are not losing as much time to training new employees.

The Center experienced its single most critical multi-agency event to date with the explosion at Emerson Court last August. The outstanding performance of all five dispatchers involved resulted in a Commendation for Dispatcher Elizabeth Chudzik and letters of appreciation for her co-workers: Jessica Alvaro, Joshua Cicia, Jason Rushford and Christine Brunelle.

For an unprecedented number of times this year, dispatchers were instrumental in providing prompt life-saving measures for those in a medical emergency situation. On at least three occasions, instructing the caller in CPR contributed to the “breathing again” status of the patient prior to the arrival of the ambulance to the scene. Special mention is given to Dispatchers Carly Kinnas and Jason Rushford for their exceptional performance during several of these events.

A number of major structure fires in Amherst and Belchertown, as well as several serious assaults in progress, a fatal construction accident and a bank robbery underscore the increase in significance and frequency of the emergency activity channeled through the Center.

It was again possible for members of our staff to participate in the Fire Department Open House last fall and the Fire Department S.A.F.E. graduation this spring. The very positive response to our involvement has prompted several dispatchers to begin work on a 911 Public Education program.

During the National Public Safety Dispatcher Week, in April, our staff received recognition for their excellence on the *Walk of Fame* located in Daytona Beach, Florida at the headquarters for APCO International, the world’s oldest and largest not-for-profit professional organization dedicated to the enhancement of public safety communications.

After years of lobbying by members of the Massachusetts Communications Supervisors Association, the State created a training grant offered only to 911 Centers throughout the Commonwealth. Funded by the surcharges collected on your wire line and wireless phone bills, this grant is the first ever to be specific and exclusive to emergency dispatchers. I am proud of our efforts regarding this initiative and pleased by the subsequent funding awarded our center in response to our grant application.

The recent upgrade to our radio equipment, though not without challenge, was successfully completed. We look forward to the State's planned upgrade to our 911 phone equipment this fall, continued success with our current staffing model, and expanded opportunities for training.

In addition to Elizabeth Chudzik, Jessica Alvaro, Joshua Cicia, Carly Kinnas, Jason Rushford and Christine Brunelle, our staff includes Michael Curtin, Brad Worthley, Janet Sharp, Scott DelPozzo and Jennifer Guzik. I take pride and pleasure in working for and with our entire team of conscientious and highly skilled dispatch professionals and appreciate the support they have shown me in my role as Director.

Rita K. Burke

Personnel

Hired

Christine Brunelle	07/12/06
Daniel Lorenzatti	04/02/07

Terminated

Ann Misiaszek	09/06/06
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Resigned

Daniel Lorenzatti	06/09/07
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AMHERST PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

Fiscal Year 2007

Members: Candace Bradbury-Carlin, Sylvia Cuomo, Carl Erikson, Mary S. McCarthy, Terry Rooney, and Larry Siddall.

In December 2005, APAC received a grant of \$1,000 from the Amherst Cultural Council to commission “Architectural Gems of Amherst,” a mural for the entrance of the Boltwood Walk Parking Garage. A competition was announced in the spring of 2006; the selected muralist was local artist, Briana Taylor. The mural features various Amherst sites, e.g. sections of the National Yiddish Book Center, Amherst College, Jones Library and West Cemetery. Briana completed the first section in the fall of 2006, and the ribbon cutting was documented in the local media and well received by the local community. Someone visiting Amherst from the Washington D.C. area contacted us, complimenting our town on the variety of artwork and our new mural, and wanted guidance on how to start a public art project in their community. APAC received a second grant from Amherst Cultural Council for the second wall of the garage entrance, which will be completed by Briana Taylor in the fall of 2007.

The Amherst Public Art Commission (APAC) continues its successful Visiting Art Program, now in its 7th year. This year, our committee jury-selected four wonderful artists: Steve Wilda (graphite), Gineen Cooper (printing on fabric), Michael Phillis (photographs) and Kathleen Gougou (oil paintings) to exhibit this year and into next. Several works were sold by the artists, which earned \$207 in commissions for APAC. This enables APAC to continue giving a \$100 honorarium to each artist to help defray the costs of exhibiting. We have been fortunate to have the local media cover every artist for the last 3 years, with either articles or photographs of every exhibition. Also, we have joined and support the Amherst ArtsWalk, held every first Thursday of the month. This fall, APAC will open a call for artists for next year’s Visiting Art Program, our 8th year.

APAC is also involved with 250th Anniversary Committee in helping select a “Legacy Art Piece” to give to the Town in celebration of this anniversary.

APAC is very grateful for the funding it receives from the Amherst Cultural Council and the support of local businesses, especially Cowles Building Supply.

APAC currently has \$1,700 in its account with the Amherst Cultural Council and \$207 in its account with the Town Treasurer.

Terry Rooney, Chair

PUBLIC SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2007

The Committee would like to thank Stanley Ziomek for his 38 years of service as Tree Warden. He has been responsible for the planting of hundreds of trees and the monitoring of all of the street and park trees of Amherst. In a town that can be very trying for its public officials, Stan has shown a respect for people and a great sense of humor. Thank you, Stan.

The Committee would also like to welcome Alan Snow as the new Tree Warden. The Town is very fortunate to have a new tree warden who is without question one of the most qualified in New England. In addition to his work experience as the State's urban forester, Alan is a Massachusetts Certified Arborist and a graduate of the University of Massachusetts's Urban Forestry program. Welcome, Mr. Snow.

The Public Shade Tree Committee, in cooperation with the Tree Warden, has been working on the following projects during the past year:

The New Tree Bylaw:

The Committee brought to 2007 spring Town Meeting a proposed tree bylaw that would help increase the Town's ability to plant new trees in sustainable locations. This warrant article was referred back to the Committee for future Town Meeting action. This bylaw would develop a process to allow for the removal of public shade trees, when deemed reasonable by the Tree Warden, in exchange for an inch-for-inch tree replacement. The Committee is making every effort to educate the residents and businesses of Amherst on the importance of this bylaw and the benefits the community forest provides the Town.

Inventory:

The Committee is working with the Tree Warden to help the Town apply for a grant to hire a graduate student to perform a street tree inventory of selected roads in town. This inventory will be incorporated into the Town's GIS system and its continued use by Town departments, to promote a sustainable community forestry program.

250th Anniversary Tree Planting Goal:

The Committee is working with the Tree Warden to accomplish his tree planting project:

- 250 Trees for Amherst's 250th
- over the next year continue to develop a bare-root tree planting program, for Arbor Day 2009, to plant 250 trees in town
- develop a list of residents who would like to make a donation to plant a tree along Town roads within 20 feet of the public way to celebrate the Town's 250th anniversary
- find a nursery that can deliver the bare-root trees.

H. Dennis Ryan, Chairman
Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND BICYCLE COMMITTEE (PTBC)

Fiscal Year 2007

First, the PTBC wishes to express its gratitude to the many Town personnel, staff, and officials who gave of their time to meet with the Committee and share their advice, opinions, and knowledge covering a wide array of subjects in our committee charge. We also thank Town Meeting for its debate and approval of an allocation from the Transportation Enterprise Fund (TEF) to finance transit services that are available year-round to residents. The Finance Committee's recommendation to approve the Town-funded routes, the Select Board's vote to amend the wording of the TEF mission statement to include funding for public transportation, as well as the Town Manager's facilitation of these two processes were key to Town Meeting's vote in support of the Town-funded routes.

The PTBC has been especially active this past year. The Select Board approved our recommendation to change the wording of the TEF mission statement to reflect the original intent of the fund: "To provide a parking and public transportation system that meets the needs of Amherst residents and businesses, and that can be supported through fees and other alternative non-tax sources." We formed a subcommittee that focused on the specific issue of community public transportation. The "Outreach Route" subcommittee worked for many months to develop, budget, and improve transit service connecting various neighborhoods in North Amherst, South Amherst, and Echo Hill with popular commercial destinations such as Downtown, Atkins Corner, and Cushman Market, as well as the surrounding towns. Adding a Gatehouse Road extension to the Belchertown Express Bus increased the Gatehouse Road service to seven runs per day while substantially cutting the Town's cost. The North and South outreach routes were combined to form Route 32 Puffer's Pond-Atkins Corner. With this route, riders may travel from North to South Amherst without changing buses. Route 32 also serves as a central spine for the development of transit services in the future. For the first time this year, summer Saturday service was offered on Route 32, and it was well utilized by residents. In sum, the total changes to the Outreach Routes resulted in a reduction of the total number of route miles funded by the Town (from 23.7 to 20.7). These route changes resulted from a cooperative effort with UMass Transit and PVRTA. Ultimately, we slogged through the myriad details of planning and operating the Town-funded routes. We thank UMass and the PVRTA for their patience and expertise during this phase of restructuring the Town-funded routes.

For the first time this year, Town funding for transit services included a small allocation for promoting Town-funded routes. The subcommittee engaged in several promotional activities aimed at increasing ridership on Town-funded routes. Several hundred bookmarks with the bus schedule printed on one side were placed at local businesses, the Jones Library, the Town Hall, and on buses. Service schedules and notices were placed in newsletters of the Echo Hill Neighborhood Association and the Chamber of

Commerce. In addition, Committee members posted directions for taking the 32 Bus to Puffer's Pond from high density neighborhoods in North Amherst and encouraged a reporter to cover this route for the *Amherst Bulletin*.

The PTBC has worked to increase its responsiveness to the needs of Amherst residents and visitors, especially concerning issues of bus service, motor vehicle congestion, parking problems, bicycle accommodations, and the quality of the pedestrian atmosphere downtown. Several meetings were spent reviewing the following plans: traffic calming measures on Lincoln Avenue, the proposed dual roundabout at Atkins Corner, widening Route 116 over the Notch, new sidewalks and crosswalks downtown, and the Veridian Village development at Hampshire College. Our review of the Veridian Village plans indicated several adjustments that would improve pedestrian and public transit access to that development, including installing a pedestrian signal at the entrance in lieu of a rotary, adding bus pull-offs on Route 116, and adding sidewalks and crosswalks. These recommendations were made in writing to Larry Archey at Hampshire College. The Committee also considered several proposals that were not approved, including adding bike lanes to Pelham Road, extending parking meter hours, and altering the route of the Amity Shuttle to include a stop at the Whole Foods market in Hadley.

The PTBC welcomes the challenge of guarding the safety, desires, and convenience of Amherst residents. Members of the community are invited to attend Committee meetings to communicate their concerns and ideas. Despite the current fiscal situation, the Committee believes in its goal of developing a unified system that meets the needs of pedestrians, transit riders, cyclists, and drivers in the Town of Amherst. Again, on behalf of the Committee, we thank you for this fantastic opportunity to help Amherst grow and lead the region into the future of "people propulsion."

Respectfully submitted,
Franklin E. Wells, Chair



AMHERST *Massachusetts*

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
586 SOUTH PLEASANT STREET
AMHERST, MA 01002
TEL. 413-259-3050 FAX 413-259-2414

Department of Public Works

Fiscal Year 2007

This has been a very interesting year. The first part of the year found me finishing my deployment in Iraq, and the new Town Manager starting his contract here. The DPW found itself finishing up the projects we had lined up for the year while at the same time learning the ways of the new Manager. As always, the many individuals of the Department stepped up to the tasks at hand and did an excellent job. I would like to personally thank everyone for a job well done. Special thanks go to Bob Pariseau for filling in as the Acting Superintendent; to Jason Skeels and the engineers who were dragged into the Blum Brook athletic field project, which was not our project; and to John Field, who was kind enough to wait to retire until I got back to work.

John Field's retirement after 30 years working for the Amherst DPW is the first of 6-7 retirements the DPW is expecting over the next 3-5 years. I would like to thank John for his many years of service and wish him the best in retirement. John was replaced by Matt Loven, a 36-year veteran in the DPW as the Highway Superintendent. Matt Loven's supervisor's position was filled by Keith Longto, a 12-year veteran of the DPW.

Although it is sad to say good-bye to a long-time employee, John Field's retirement gave the General Fund side of the DPW some wiggle room during the creation of the FY 08 budget. By restructuring, and promoting qualified internal employees, the Highway Division was able to avoid laying off any employees for the upcoming budget year. We were actually able to hire a replacement Laborer.

As we close out my fifth year with the Town of Amherst, it will be remembered as our worst year fiscally. We did things this year we have never had to do and finished the year with less than \$2,000 and no stockpile of materials for the upcoming year. Employees responding to General Fund emergencies and required overtime after April were asked to flex their work hours or to take the overtime as compensatory time to save funds. Our employees were willing to do this, but using this approach on a routine basis in the future is something we hope to avoid. Payment for the FY 07 work has drifted into FY 08 as employees have used their additional time off in July and August. This year, divisions were directed to not purchase anything except materials for necessary work and repairs in April, instead of the last two weeks of June. Stock parts that were used during this period were not replaced at the end of the year. There were several weeks that potholes were not filled because there were no funds to pay for the labor and material.

The summer usually sees the hiring of several seasonal employees to support our work for LSSE, Parks and Commons, and our construction work. This year, only two seasonal employees were hired. This year saw a new user fee for the use of the facilities at Groff Park and Mill River – a

user fee which is being used to balance the program budgets of the LSSE Department instead of funding maintenance of the parks. Even the Water Fund suffered this year from a revenue shortfall as we adjust to the conservation efforts at UMass and to another wet spring and summer. We have put in place one of the largest water rate increases in the Fund's history and hope that only smaller increases will be needed in the future.

From FY 02 to FY 08, the General Fund DPW budget has gone from \$ 1,670,814 to \$1,690,501, a 1.16 % increase. The FY 08 budget is \$ 46,000 less than the FY 07 budget. The DPW had an unexpected salary savings of a little over \$20,000 from the Superintendent's sabbatical, in addition to around \$20,000 in savings from the Snow and Ice budget due to a mild winter. Both savings are not expected to be repeated again next year.

My letter is supposed to serve as a summary of the year and an introduction to the information to come. As always, our numbers look great, showing a department that is performing well in spite of budget reductions. I hope this introduction has stirred you to ask a few questions: Are we comfortable with funding employee positions out of the capital budget? This budget was supposed to carry us through the last four tight budget years before coming to an even split between major projects and improved routine maintenance. It seems now the tight years will continue. Are we doing all the routine maintenance we should be? Are the critical pieces being repaired as quickly and efficiently as they could be? What will the Department look like if it continues to receive annual increases of only 1.16% for the next six years? What skill level of employee will we be able to attract as the senior members of our work force retire? These are all valid questions as we review the past and think of the budget year ahead of us, with reduced funds.

In closing, I hope you find this information helpful and that you realize that what we accomplish is not due to one person. It is due to an entire department that is overall a very good group of employees who are willing to do their job, and a little more, to reach a common goal.

Respectfully submitted,

Guilford B. Mooring II, P.E.
Superintendent of Public Works

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

The personnel of the Highway Division, in addition to their normal maintenance, completed the following projects during FY 07:

HIGHWAY RESURFACING:

The following streets and roads were resurfaced, shimmed or reclaimed this year between July 2006 and November 2006 for a total of 1.4 miles. Over 1,800 ft. of sidewalk was repaved on each side of East Pleasant Street. Bike lanes and bus pull-offs were added, and drainage was also improved. The DPW also paved the parking lots of the Plum Brook Recreation Area and the Parks and Recreation Department Garage. In addition to the resurfacing work, DPW crews also installed approximately 800 tons of bituminous asphalt pavement patches.

<u>Reclamation & 3"Overlay</u>	From	To	Length (ft.)	Width (ft.)
Bay Rd.	Hulst Rd.	Town Line	3900	31
East Pleasant St.	Strong St.	Triangle St.	2630	38
Hulst Rd.	Bay Rd.	Brookfield Farm	800	20

SIDEWALK AND STORM DRAINAGE PROJECTS

Downtown Streetscape Improvements (Phase III) North Pleasant St.

The downtown sidewalk improvements continued this year, with the following work completed:

new granite curbs	330 ft.
new concrete sidewalk (8'wide)	85 cu.yds.
sanitary sewer pipe	20 ft.
stormwater drain structures	4 ea.
new street lights & conduit	8 ea.

College Street Sidewalk Completion:

granite curbing	700 ft.
concrete sidewalk	380 ft. or 35 cu.yds.

Henry Street drainage and resurfacing project;

new drainage pipe	2300 ft.
drainage structures	30
headwalls/ pipe outlets	8

OTHER PROJECTS:

1. new comfort station at Groff Park
2. roadway detail painting at intersections and parking lots
3. Ruxton Gravel Yard site reclamation work
4. repaired existing salt/sand shed
5. constructed new locker room for female employees
6. catch basin repairs 15
7. isolated pipe repairs 9
8. sewer repairs 4

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (T.I.P.)

The following T.I.P projects are underway this year:

1. design of the Atkins Corner intersection improvements
2. University Drive corridor improvements
3. construction of Meadow Street bridge replacement (Mass Highway)
4. design of East Leverett Road bridge replacement (Mass Highway)
5. design of Main Street bridge replacement (Mass Highway).

SANITARY SEWER DIVISION

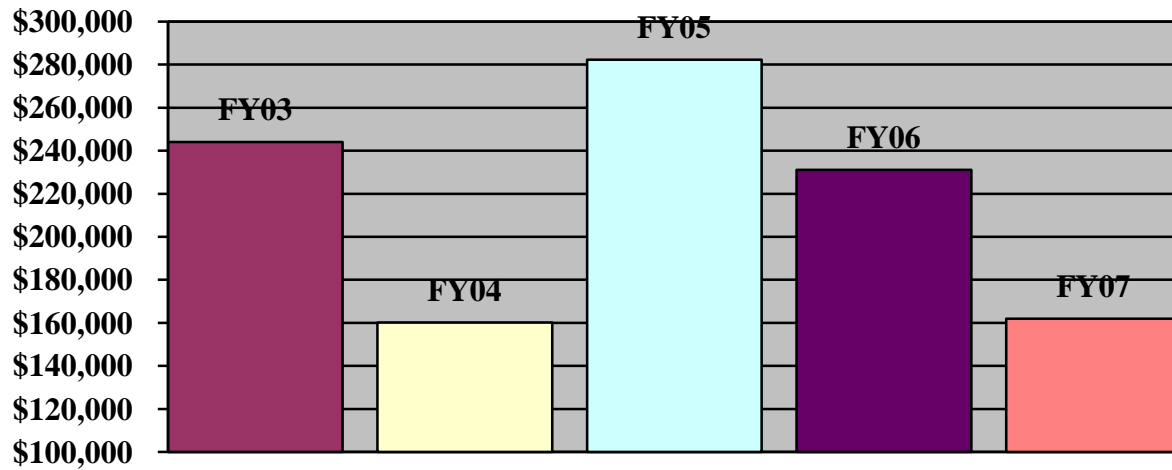
SEWER MAINTENANCE

Investigated **113** sanitary sewer complaints and corrected **21 stoppages** in the collection system. Problematic sewer locations are flushed and cleaned on a quarterly basis. The DPW, in conjunction with Dukes Inc., chemically treated 5617 feet of sewer line for root intrusion.

John Field/ Matt Loven
Highway Division Supervisor

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

Annual Expenditure

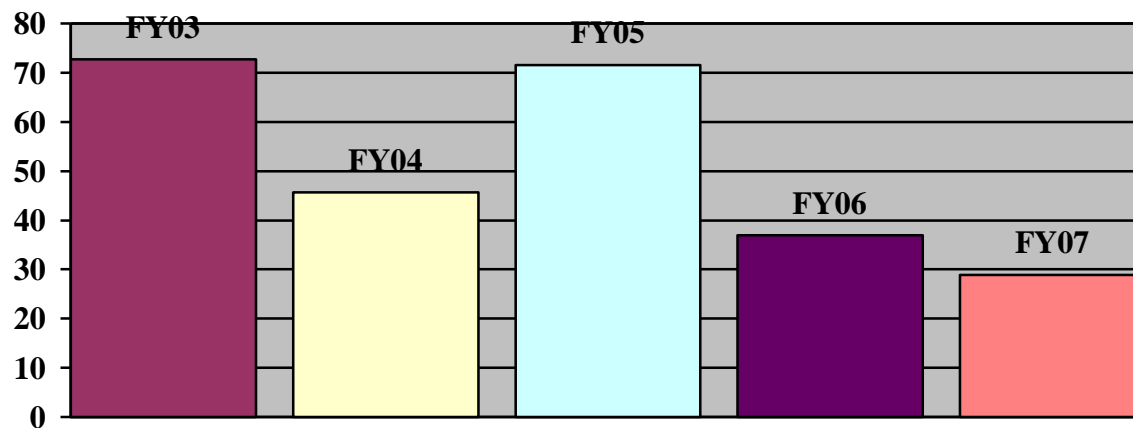


There were 15 snow and ice storms, with a total of 28.9 inches of snow.

2414 tons of sand and 808.15 tons of salt were used.

17505 gallons of Ice Band Magic were used on the roadways and sidewalks.

Inches of Snow



Year	Cost	Snow (inches)	No. of Storms
FY 03	\$243,986	72.7	39*
FY 04	\$160,181	45.7	27
FY 05	\$282,334	71.5	26
FY 06	\$231,120	36.9	20
FY 07	\$161,930	28.9	15

*7 Additional snow/ice events of less than 1" occurred, which required sanding operations only.

TREE AND CEMETERY DIVISION

The Tree Division removed a total of 82 street trees during the past year. Trees removed were: 8 red maple, 30 sugar maple, 8 Norway maple, 7 American elm, 7 white pine, 5 white ash, 3 poplar, 5 cherry, 1 magnolia, 2 hemlock, 1 catalpa, 1 butternut, 1 mountain ash, 1 weeping willow, 1 white willow and 1 black cherry.

During FY 07, 11 trees were planted.

38 tree stumps were removed in FY 07.

In addition to tree care responsibilities, this department, consisting of three full-time employees and one part-time summer employee, is also responsible for the care and maintenance, including burials, at the West, North and South Cemeteries.

Burials in FY 07

West Cemetery	2
North Cemetery	19
South Cemetery	12

PARKS DIVISION

The Parks Division of five full-time employees and two part-time summer staff continue the day-to-day maintenance of our parks and commons, together with the maintenance of twenty-three softball, baseball, football, lacrosse and soccer fields and many multi-purpose areas.

Special Projects:

No large special projects were worked on this year due to lack of funding.

WATER TREATMENT & DISTRIBUTION

Water Consumption: The average daily water consumption for FY 07 was 3.09 million gallons; the peak day, August 2, 2006, was 4.143 million gallons. The total FY 07 rainfall was 42.27 inches. In spite of an increase in the numbers of users, water consumption continues to show a decrease over the last 10 years, as shown in the graph below.

The figures below summarize the amount of water pumped, the revenue generated and the chemicals used to treat the water. Chlorine, ozone and ammonia are used for disinfection. Potassium permanganate is used for iron and manganese removal at Well #4. Polymer is used for water treatment at the Atkins and Centennial water treatment plants. Fluoride is added at a level of 1 part per million to reduce tooth decay, and sodium hydroxide is used to elevate the pH of the water for corrosion control.

DAILY WATER CONSUMPTION IN MILLION GALLONS

Water Services

	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
New services installed	38	31	28
Total water services	6,338	6,369	6,428
# Meters Replaced	298	294	238

Chemical Usage - All Sites

Chlorine (lbs.)	16,998	15,976	18,659
Sodium Hydroxide (gals.)	16,253	14,225	15,171
Polymer (gals.)	2,528	2,289	3,189
Potassium Permanganate (lbs.)	694	1,924	393
Ammonia (lbs.)	3,537	3,079	3,266
Sodium Fluoride (lbs.)	21,900	17,275	19,180
Ozone	1,242	1,289	443

Monthly Pumping in Million Gallons

Month	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
July	111.982	102.58	101.175
August	110.368	100.73	96.554
September	120.672	116.66	100.685
October	112.629	108.50	103.192
November	108.949	101.68	87.706
December	107.013	95.30	88.556
January	99.592	80.36	79.715
February	107.711	86.90	95.925
March	107.519	91.47	94.104
April	109.123	97.97	96.633
May	109.859	103.77	100.053
June	106.067	89.21	83.838
Total	1,311.48	1,175.13	1,128.14
Daily Average	3.59	3.22*	3.09*
Maximum Daily	4.533 (9/10/04)	5.128 (9/15/05)	4.143 (8/02/06)
Minimum Daily	2.532 (1/09/05)	2.043 (12/27/05)	2.241 (11/25/06)

Water Pumped - Million Gallons

<i>Source</i>	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
Wells #1 & #2	142	103	167
Well #3	395	364	314
Well #4	78	191	44
Well #5	10	2	10
Pelham Reservoirs	283	231	316
Atkins Reservoir	404	284*	270*
Total Water Pumped	1,311	1,175	1,122
Average Daily (millions)	3.59	3.22	3.09

Quantity adjusted for meter error 200 gpm

Water Consumed – Cubic Feet

	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
UMass	50,948,600	40,488,216*	36,835,279*
Amherst College	5,998,300	6,912,600	5,999,100
Hampshire College	3,028,400	3,071,000	2,667,300
Town	91,725,500	75,862,600	76,752,100
Municipal	1,293,000	1,037,500	1,172,300
Special Water Readings	476,900	326,700	8,751,000
Other	156,900	134,900	538,200
Un-Metered Use	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Adjustments	1,184,700	356,500	756,600
Total Metered (ft³)	159,812,300	133,190,016	133,468,879
Total Metered (million gals.)	1,205*	999	1,001
% Unaccounted	8%	15%	10.8%

*Adjusted for meter error

Total Revenue – Dollars

	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
UMass Water	\$1,112,074	\$806,313	\$797,273
Sewer	\$900,600	\$874,444	\$878,273
Amherst College Water	\$129,515	\$147,441	\$146,790
Sewer	\$117,016	\$165,965	\$159,548
Hampshire College Water	\$66,303	\$65,588	\$65,010
Sewer	\$59,065	\$73,730	\$71,618
Town Water	\$1,598,297	\$2,068,281	\$1,837,063
Sewer	\$1,375,642	\$2,168,192	\$1,813,176
Municipal Water	\$30,326	\$24,904	\$31,913
Sewer	\$25,139	\$24,802	\$32,057
Special Reading Water & Sewer	\$23,490	\$15,607	\$293,647
Adjustments Water & Sewer	(\$83,506)		(\$60,901)
Other Water & Sewer	\$6,001	\$6,492	\$29,991
Total Revenue	\$5,359,961	\$5,436,147	\$6,095,459

WATER QUALITY DATA:

Bacterial Samples: Bimonthly samples were analyzed from 27 sites around town and all samples were negative for coliform bacteria.

Fluoride: Fluoride was added to all sources at a level of 1.0 ppm to prevent tooth decay.

Treatment Plant Performance: Both the Atkins (Shutesbury) and Centennial (Pelham) Water Treatment plants produced water that meets the requirements set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The average turbidity from Atkins was 0.10 N.T.U. and from Centennial 0.08 N.T.U. The EPA requires that these readings be less than 0.3 N.T.U. in 95% of the samples. Total Trihalomethanes, a byproduct of chlorine disinfection, averaged 33.9 ppb from quarterly sampling at eight different sites around town. The EPA limit is 80 ppb. Haloacetic acids, another by product of chlorine disinfection, were also analyzed quarterly at 8 different locations and the average value was 39.1 ppm, well below the EPA limit of 60 ppm.

Water Rate: The water rate for FY 07 is listed below. In FY 07 the 3 tier ascending block rate was abandoned.

\$2.40 per hundred cubic feet

The average water cost to an Amherst resident, based on an annual usage of 120 HCF, is about \$288/year. This number is well below the state average.

Information: More information about water treatment and quality can be accessed on line at www.epa.gov or www.mass.gov: search for drinking water.

Cross Connection Program: The cross connection program was established in 1989 under Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulation 310 CMR 22.22 to prevent cross contamination of the water supply with hazardous substances. Water Department staff tests these devices twice annually.

Total Backflow Devices

	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
<i>Town</i>	55	59	57
UMass	378	385	400
Amherst College	96	100	97
<i>Hampshire College</i>	25	28	30
Commercial	112	110	129
Residential-Irrigation		18	34
Total	666	700	747

Chemical Analysis: The following water tests were recently analyzed and all levels of substance in the water were below the Maximum Contaminant Level set by the Safe Drinking Water Act. More information is available online at www.amherstma.gov : Go to department – water – ccr.

- Volatile Organic Compounds – Solvents, Petroleum Products
- Inorganic Compounds – tested annually at all sources
- Fluoride – Daily at all sources
- Synthetic Organic Compounds – herbicides and pesticides - 2006 at all sources
- Arsenic
- Perchlorate
- Radioactive Substances
- Lead and Copper

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

A. Water Pipeline Improvements: In FY 07, Freitas Construction, Inc. of Ludlow, Massachusetts, was contracted by the Town to do water distribution system improvements to Shays Street, at a cost of \$352,011.38. The work involved the abandonment of about 1 mile of old 6” cast iron water main and transferring 45 house services to another existing 12” water main. The old 6” main was causing consistent iron discoloration in the water.

B. Centennial Water Treatment Plant: The underground oil storage tank was replaced with an inside 500 gallon tank and spill containment. State grant funds assisted with the cost.

C. Atkins Water Treatment Plant: Tighe & Bond Engineers of Westfield, Massachusetts, updated the hardware and software control system at the plant.

D. Timber Harvest: In FY 07, 75 acres (compartment 13) of watershed land in Pelham were harvested by Northwoods Forest Products and generated \$25,133 of revenue.

E. Water Management Act permit renewal: The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has begun a 5-year review of the Amherst Water Department’s “Water Management Act Permit.” We are currently approved for withdrawing 4.4 million gallons of water daily from our 5 wells located in Lawrence Swamp Aquifer. The permit evaluates such things as water conservation, pipeline leakage, water meter accuracy and per capita consumption.

F. Environmental Protection Agency Regulations: We are currently involved in sampling and ensuring compliance with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule. The purpose of this regulation is to increase public health protection by reducing the levels of potentially harmful chemicals formed by the addition of chlorine to the drinking water. It appears that we can meet the more stringent requirements of this regulation without major changes to our current treatment plants.

G. Baby Carriage Brook: The greensand media used for iron and manganese removal in the well water was sampled and tested, and will be evaluated for chemical cleaning or replacement.

H. Dam Inspections: Tighe and Bond Engineers performed Phase I inspections on all Town-owned dams, as required by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. All dams were found to be in fair or satisfactory conditions, and the noted deficiencies will be addressed. Emergency Action Plans were developed for the two high-hazard dams: Atkins Reservoir and Factory Hollow.

I. Water Award: The Amherst water system was presented an award at the “National Drinking Water Day” held at the University of Massachusetts on May 10, 2007. This is the third year in a row that Amherst has been recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for excellence in all aspects of water supply.

J. Fluoride Award: The Massachusetts Department of Public Health recognized the Amherst Water Department for successfully maintaining optimal fluoride levels and meeting the fluoridation monitoring requirements in 2007.

Robert E. Pariseau
Director of Water Resources

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Flow Data

The Wastewater Treatment Plant treated 1.45 billion gallons of wastewater in FY 07. The highest daily flow rate recorded was 13.4 million gallons on 4/15/07.

	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
<i>Inches of Rainfall</i>	47.84	56.98	42.26
Average Daily Flow in Million Gallons	4.21	4.42	3.97
Highest Day in Million Gallons	9.19 (1/14/05)	11.05 (10/15/05)	10.35 (4/16/07)
Chemicals Used			
Chlorine (lbs.)	11,575	9,480	9,535
Polymer (lbs.)	2,837	2,680	2,999
Potassium Permanganate (lbs.)	2,640	3,080	2,530

Chlorine is used to disinfect the wastewater prior to discharge into the Connecticut River. Polymer is used to thicken sludge as part of the disposal process. Potassium permanganate is used for odor control.

Treatment Efficiency

The water that is discharged into the Connecticut River is tested in our treatment plant laboratory. Many process control tests are performed to optimize treatment and produce the best quality effluent possible. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) monitor our activities and measure our effectiveness by the parameters listed below (annual averages). No violations of our EPA discharge permit occurred in FY 07.

Parameter	EPA Limit	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	25*	13.0	4.4	6.0
Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)	30	3.2	3.1	4.0
Chlorination (mg/L)	1.0	0.44	0.44	.40

*Change from 30 in 2006

Septage Received

The treatment plant receives septage from residential septic tanks pumped from the towns of Amherst, Pelham and Shutesbury. Below is a summary of the number of septic tanks (usually 1,000 gallons) that were pumped.

Town	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
Amherst	121	78	68
Pelham	44	40	40
Shutesbury	86	69	72
Total	251	187	180

Sludge Data

Sludge is the residual organic material left after the wastewater is treated. We currently thicken these solids on-site, and Casella Waste Management is under contract to deliver the liquid sludge to an EPA-approved sludge incinerator. Sludge in FY 07 was transported to three incineration facilities: Fitchburg, MA; Millbury, MA; and Naugatuck, CT.

Sludge Data	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
Total Gallons (transported)	3,537,600	3,677,100	3,901,000
Total Dry Tons	1,030	1,011	1,052
% Solids	7.0	6.6	6.6

Month	Total Gallons	Ave. % Solids	Total Dry Tons	Dry Tons Per Day
July	198,000	7.0	58.41	1.9
August	189,000	7.7	60.55	1.9
September	326,500	6.8	92.47	3.1
October	420,000	6.6	114.83	3.7
November	383,200	6.2	99.09	3.3
December	411,200	5.4	91.46	3.0
January	258,000	6.7	71.85	2.3
February	351,800	6.1	89.48	3.2
March	406,900	6.2	103.51	3.3
April	365,900	7.1	108.68	3.6
May	383,500	6.6	104.71	3.4
June	207,000	6.6	56.96	1.9
Total	3,901,000		1,052.00	
Average	325,083	6.6	87.7	2.9

Power Consumption

	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
<i>Avg. kWh/month</i>	104,300	115,563	102,272
Avg. kW Demand	?	232	214

Special Activities:

A. Discharge Permit: A new discharge permit was issued for the treatment plant in December 2006. Changes in the permit were a decrease in the effluent BOD limit from 30 mg/l to 25 mg/l (CBOD), and continued monitoring of nitrogen and phosphorus in the effluent. Nitrogen is a problem nutrient in Long Island Sound and a future nitrogen removal limit might be expected.

B. Demolition: Treatment plant staff demolished the original vacuum filter and conveyor that were used for sludge dewatering. The units had not been used in about ten years.

C. Emergency Power: Two new generators were purchased to supply emergency power at West Street (replacement) and Amherst Fields (new) pumping stations. Plant staff will install these units in the fall of 2007.

D. Roof at the Treatment Plant: Architect Roy Brown was hired to assist in preparing plans and specifications for a roof replacement at the 30-year old treatment plant. The work will be done in the fall of 2007.

E. Chlorination System: Treatment plant staff performed major updates and improvements to the chlorination-feed system.

F. Corrosion Control: Primary Clarifier #3 and four clarifier bridges were completely sandblasted and repainted.

G. Sewer Plans: DPW, Engineering, and GIS staff reviewed and did major improvements to the GIS sewer plans.

H. Sewer Rate: The sewer rate will go to \$3.00 per hundred cubic feet (750 gals) on 7/1/2007.

I. Electrical Department: The old administration building built in 1938 was converted to an electrical office, storage room and shop. Asbestos was removed from the facility heating system.

J. Comminutor: The raw wastewater grinder was replaced by treatment plant staff.

K. Sewer Rehabilitation: Old vitrified clay sewers were replaced on Sunset Court, McClure Street, Gaylord Street and Orchard Street. Three other chronic problem areas located on Hills Road, Red Gate Lane and Market Hill Road were repaired. The work was done in the fall of 2006 by Freitas Construction Inc. of Ludlow, at a cost of \$352,500. Camp, Dresser and McKee of Boston served as design and consulting engineer.

L. Water Reuse Project: The University of Massachusetts continued to utilize about 170,000 gallons daily of treatment plant effluent for make-up water at their existing power plant. The University will continue to use the treatment plant effluent when the new power plant goes on line in the spring of 2008. Expanded use of the treated effluent is expected in the future.

Robert E. Pariseau
Director of Water Resources

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

Public education and awareness-building was the central theme for Amherst's solid waste and recycling program in FY 07.

Amherst received resources from two grants: \$3,255 was awarded by the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) Advisory Board for container-recycling awareness promotion; and a number of items were received from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Municipal Waste Reduction Grant.

The MRF mini-grant funded a series of drink bottle-recycling awareness advertisements in the Amherst Bulletin in May and June, a two-month advertisement on www.amherstbulletin.com, printing of 100 color "Bottle Battle" posters and 150 recycling awareness stickers, and special lids for 12 public area recycling containers.

The MRF grant enabled a Town-wide art recycling contest for elementary school students, which generated art work for a business recycling recognition sticker. The round, full-color sticker reads "Amherst First – Support a Recycler." It will be given to Amherst businesses with active recycling programs for placement on front windows or doors. The grant and the "Bottle Battle" concept was also the catalyst for a public service announcement on WRSI radio station and a 4th of July Parade entry.

Other new public education efforts included: the first Town-wide elementary school "Trash Free Lunch Day," a collaboration with Chartwells, the food service organization which holds the school lunch contract with Amherst Regional Schools; a new enhanced recycling website (www.amherstma.com/recycling) containing all the material from the 2006 Amherst Recyclopedia; participation in the 2006 Amherst Sustainable Energy Fair; increased communication with Amherst Regional School teachers about recycling and environmentally related student opportunities; recycling and waste-related presentations at Amherst elementary schools; and participation in the Hitchcock Center's Science Saturday's program for young children.

The DEP grant provided 20 rain barrel discounts to Amherst residents, several recycling videos and brochures about environmental resources for Amherst school teachers, a "Working with the Media" outreach toolkit, 50 water conservation kits (which include items such as faucet aerators and garden hose spray nozzles). The grant also provided six steel, cage-style public-area recycling bins which will be used for large public events on the Common, and a single lightweight plastic collection container for smaller public events.

The food composting program in Amherst public schools remains a challenge. During the summer of 2006, "Compost it!", an educational video for Amherst elementary school students, was produced by a parent volunteer. Copies of the short video featuring local children were given to Amherst's four elementary schools in August for classroom and cafeteria viewing. Several parents volunteered to serve as Compost Coaches in school cafeterias for several days, celebrating, encouraging, and instructing students in the composting effort. Despite these efforts, plastic contamination (Styrofoam containers and plastic utensils) in school compost remained high. In January 2007, compost collection at the high school and two elementary schools was halted. The composting program now is active at two elementary schools. School

districts in the region with successful composting programs either prohibit use of plastic and Styrofoam serve ware in their Cafeteria, or have outside funding sources with which to purchase compostable serve ware. It is believed that school composting success in Amherst depends on the existence of an alternative composting facility willing to accept the level of plastic contamination found in our compost, or the prohibition of plastic serve ware use in school cafeterias in future school lunch management contracts.

An audit of the “Sharps” collection program found five-quart collection containers far more popular than the one-quart size. This indicates that *individual* needle users are not using the program as originally anticipated. In FY 07 the medical waste hauler destroyed 48.8 pounds of Sharps collected by Amherst’s Health Department and transfer station. Plans are underway to analyze and enhance the Sharps program next year.

Curbside pickup of trash and recyclables in Amherst continues to be provided by private trash haulers; however, households requesting variances are allowed to bring their recycling and trash directly to the transfer station in pre-paid bags. This fiscal year, 400 households received variances to Pay as You Throw (PAYT), eliminating their need for a private hauler.

Earth Machine composting units, kitchen counter compost pails and recycling bins continue to be available for purchase at the transfer station. Rain barrel purchases and MA DEP-sponsored rain barrel discounts were offered to Amherst residents in early spring and distributed in April from the DPW parking lot on Route 116.

The Recycling Center and Transfer Station supports many programs to divert materials from landfill disposal. The following items are accepted at no charge from residents with current vehicle stickers:

clothing (goes to Salvation Army)	printer cartridges
automotive and rechargeable batteries	mixed containers
waste automotive oil	mixed paper
leaves & grass clippings	mercury-bearing items such as
Christmas trees	thermometers & thermostats

The Take-It-or-Leave-It and Book sheds, which allow vehicle sticker owners to swap books and household items, remain popular, although parking becomes problematic when visitors linger at the two sheds.

The option to donate bottles with return deposits to the local food bank continues with a designated bin. Fluorescent bulbs, brush, electronics, household solid waste (bulky items), construction/demolition waste, scrap metal, asphalt, bricks, concrete, wood, paint, tires, appliances and propane tanks are all accepted for recycling/disposal after payment of fees.

Two household hazardous waste (HHW) collection days were held in the fall (2006) and spring (2007). Types and quantities of materials recycled via the Transfer Station over a four-year period are shown in the table below. The FY 06 spike in collected paint is due to a paint collection change at the end of FY 05.

	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
Chipped Brush/Leaves (tons)	397	62	34	XXX
Electronics (tons)	17	22	31	32
Scrap Metal (tons)	194	209	242	216
HHW in household equivalents	210	183	116	130
Paint (gallons)*	996	1,079	2,119	1,854
Tires (count)	636	678	559	757
Appliances	543	705	870	854
Propane Tanks	220	247	106	139

* Oil-based paint and paint products known to contain lead are only accepted during HHW collection days.

Susan Waite
Recycling Coordinator

THE AMHERST REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Fiscal Year 2007

The Amherst Redevelopment Authority voted 3 to 1 not to dissolve, an action that was in response to a Town Meeting petition article that was subsequently dismissed. We have one vacancy to be filled by a joint meeting with the Select Board.

The ARA has begun discussions about what, if any, future projects it may want to be involved in, now that the Boltwood Walk project has been completed. We anticipate that these discussions will continue into the next year.

AMHERST SCHOOLS

Fiscal Year 2007

Amherst School Committee

Elaine Brighty, Chair

Andy Churchill, Vice-Chair

Kathleen Anderson, Secretary

Sonia Correa-Pope

Chrystel Romero

The Amherst School Committee is an elected body responsible for the public education of all children in kindergarten through grade six and of pre-school children with substantial special needs in our community. The Committee meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month and welcomes citizen participation at each meeting. The members of this committee also serve as Amherst's members of the Regional School Committee, which has responsibility for the educational programs for children in grades seven through twelve.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Student enrollment as of October 1, 2006 was:

GRADE	STUDENTS
Pre K	64
K	192
1	190
2	195
3	203
4	195
5	194
6	<u>222</u>
TOTAL	1,455

Enrollments across grades Pre-K through six for 2006-2007 were down by 23 students. Twenty-three children from Amherst attended other school districts under the School Choice program.

Primary goals for the Amherst Schools are as follows:

1. developing and maintaining an up-to-date, innovative, multicultural, academically challenging curriculum that promotes high standards and success for all students
2. providing creative, multi-faceted instruction that maintains high standards, engages all students, and enables all students to be successful learners
3. making all students feel fully welcome and a part of our schools, regardless of race, class, gender, language, religion, sexual orientation, culture, academic success, or physical abilities
4. eliminating the achievement gap among students from different racial, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds
5. addressing the demands and opportunities facing our schools as a result of the rapid growth in the use of technology throughout our society

6. increasing communication and collaboration among the district's stakeholders – students, parents, teachers, staff, administrators, and the larger community – and using parents and the community more effectively as educational resources
7. hiring and retaining a high quality teaching and administrative staff
8. equipping and maintaining school buildings to provide healthy, accessible, modern learning environments that support the achievement of our mission
9. sustaining a physically and emotionally safe environment in our schools for students and staff.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Principal activities and events during the 2006-2007 school year include the following:

Curriculum and Faculty Professional Development

- Work was completed on the K-12 Curriculum Guides for Mathematics, English/Language Arts, and Science. The completed guides are published on the district website at <http://www.arps.org/Curriculum>.
- A social studies curriculum review committee, chaired by ARHS principal Mark Jackson, began work in 2006. The work of this committee includes a process for school and community dialogue regarding social studies curriculum. The completed K-12 Social Studies Curriculum Guide is slated for publication in the summer of 2008.

ELL

- With the resignation of the ELL Director at the end of the 2005-2006 school year, Jeanne White, Student Services Administrator, was given district oversight of the ELL program. She worked with school-level coordinators to develop a model of oversight, program development, professional development, and assessment to address the restructuring of the ELL Department.
- The primary goal for ELL in FY 07 was to develop a comprehensive program model for ELL services for students K–12.

Facilities

In 2006-2007, the facilities staff completed or supervised the following projects in the Amherst elementary school buildings:

- Wildwood
 - closet conversion to padded room
 - fire alarm upgrade
- Marks Meadow
 - computer room air-conditioning installation
 - steam heat piping repair
 - safety fence along stone wall
- Fort River and Crocker Farm
 - interior and exterior lighting retrofits
- All Schools
 - HVAC, electrical, plumbing repairs and preventative maintenance
 - completed safety and fire inspections in all facilities.

In addition, Facilities Director Ron Bohonowicz chaired the Fort River and Wildwood Building Committee, which developed a Statement of Interest to be submitted to the Massachusetts Building Authority in June 2007. This is the first step in requesting State funding for potential school building renovations. A similar Statement of Interest will also be submitted for the Mark's Meadow school building, which is owned by the University of Massachusetts.

The New England School Development Council completed the research portion of the Amherst Public School District demographic study and presented their preliminary findings to the Amherst School Committee in April. The final NESDEC report will be presented to the district in late summer or early fall.

Human Resources/Personnel

During 2006-2007, the Human Resources department has completed or is in the process of completing the following initiatives:

- Finalized the contract, statement of work, and functional specifications document with Kronos and implemented the new Kronos personnel database.
- Implemented 457/Flexible Spending Accounts for staff.
- Collected and reviewed demographic data on all staff to meet safety and software initiatives.
- Collected detailed background and educational information on all teachers and paraprofessionals in anticipation of the Massachusetts Department of Education new EPIMS (Educator Database) requirement.
- Implemented national criminal records check for new teachers coming from out-of-state.
- Performed over 1,500 criminal records checks of new and returning staff, all volunteers, coaches and tutors.
- Conducted a comprehensive Health Fair for all employees.
- Conducted an informational session for paraprofessionals to work toward degree and certification attainment.
- Completed contract negotiations with AFSCME cafeteria workers.
- Conducted Open Enrollment for insurance plans and flexible spending accounts.
- Completed negotiations for a one-year extension of the APEA (Amherst-Pelham Education Association) negotiated employment contract covering teachers, paraprofessionals and clerical staff. Administrators and cafeteria staff also agreed to an extension for an additional year through June 30, 2008.

Information Systems

In 2006-2007, the Information Systems Department completed or is continuing work on the following initiatives:

- Increased wide-area-network (WAN) backbone speed by a factor of 1,000.
- Consolidated network servers to a centralized location.
- Upgraded the Storage Area Network (SAN) – centralized storage of digital files and software.
- Continued working with other area districts and D.O.E.-selected COGNOS for a State-wide Educational Data Warehouse (EDW) for longitudinal analysis of student information and test scores.
- Prepared data for, and shipped local data to, the Educational Data Warehouse.
- Installed a remote backup server to accept nightly backups of district data to aid in disaster recovery.

- Worked with other area districts and D.O.E. to create reporting tools in the EDW for longitudinal analysis of student information and test scores.
- Centralized development of district-wide reports.
- Upgraded Student Information System from PowerSchool Pro to PowerSchool Premier for enhanced reporting and web-based GradeBook functions.
- Installed an emergency parent and staff notification system (Connect-Ed).
- Boosted Internet access “pipeline” from 3 mbps to 25 mbps.
- Installed Kronos human resources software.
- Explored and analyzing formative assessment software tools.

Program Development and Community Connections

In 2006-2007, the Office of Program Development has:

- Secured a three-year federal foreign language instruction (FLAP) grant that will establish a K-6 Chinese language and culture program at the Wildwood School and also fund a distance learning capability at the High School and support the development of an exploratory foreign language program at the upper elementary level at all schools. A new Chinese teacher for Wildwood Elementary has been hired and work has begun on multi-level initiatives related to Chinese instruction in the schools.
- Secured an “Expanded Time on Learning” planning grant from the Massachusetts Department of Education. The grant will fund district-wide and school-based study groups who will consider the possibilities and implications of increasing learning time at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.
- Continued planning and collaboration with Amherst College to promote equity and achievement for all our students. This includes implementing a pilot “Pipeline Project” initiative, which is a school-year plus summer program of academic tutoring and mentoring for low-income students.
- Wendy Kohler, Executive Director of Program Development, served as a consultant to Amherst College in the establishment of their new “Center for Civic Engagement.” The new Pipeline Project, an innovative program for students in grades 6-9, began in the spring and continued with a summer program in July. Pipeline students met with Amherst College tutors in the spring on the College campus and then attended classes plus an enrichment program (led by ARPS teachers with Amherst College student assistants) during the month of July.
- Established and implemented new guidelines and fee structure for school facilities and fields use.
- Collaborated with the Amherst Education Foundation on the launching of a new AEF website that includes improved fund-raising capacities.
- Began working to gather data required for the EQA audit scheduled for Fall 2007.

Student Services

- The Student Services office oversaw all aspects of the CPR – Coordinated Program Review – which was conducted by the Department of Education in 2006-2007. The CPR includes an in-depth review of district programs including Special Education, Civil Rights, McKinney Vento, ELL, and Title I. The DOE will forward a full report of the CPR findings to the Superintendent at some time in late summer or early fall 2007.
- Monthly, in-depth professional development for paraprofessionals has been implemented, along with a training manual for their use. In addition, a substantial number of training

programs have been provided for teaching, administrative, maintenance, nursing, custodial, and transportation staffs.

- Created a Student Support Team model/manual for schools and administrative training.
- Created final revision of the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan.
- Revised the District 504 Manual.
- Revised the PRISM Discipline Manual.
- Coordinated crisis-preparedness efforts and working collaboratively with the Amherst Police Department.
- Coordinated collaboration with Family Outreach, which provided a connection between the community and the Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools.

AMHERST-PELHAM REGIONAL SCHOOLS

Fiscal Year 2007

Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee

Elaine Brighty, Chairperson (Amherst)

Kathleen Anderson (Amherst)

Maureen Ecclestone (Pelham)

Michael Hussin, Vice-Chairperson (Pelham)

Sonia Correa Pope, Secretary (Amherst)

Marianne Jorgensen (Shutesbury)

Chrystel Romero (Amherst)

Michael Katz (Leverett)

Andy Churchill (Amherst)

The Regional School Committee represents the four communities that comprise the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District: Amherst, Pelham, Leverett, and Shutesbury. It is responsible for the direction and support of the educational programs for students in Grades 7 through 12 from each of these towns. Committee meetings are open to the public, except for executive sessions as prescribed by law, and are held regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month. Opportunity is available at every meeting for public participation.

STUDENTS

Enrollment in the Regional Middle and Senior High Schools as of October 1, 2006 decreased by 47 students. Enrollments on October 1 over the last ten years were as follows:

1996-1997	1,907	2001-2002	2,068
1997-1998	1,937	2002-2003	2,032
1998-1999	2,007	2003-2004	2,043
1999-2000	2,017	2004-2005	1,921
2000-2001	2,044	2005-2006	1,924

In addition, 41 Regional students were enrolled in vocational schools as of October 1, 2006. Seven students attended other school districts under the State's School Choice Program, and 56 students were enrolled at charter schools. Tuition for district students to attend these schools is paid by the Regional School District.

As of February 1, 2007, when this report was prepared, enrollment in the Regional Middle and Senior High Schools was as follows:

2006-2007

Grade	Amherst	Pelham	Leverett	Shutesbury	Wards	Tuition	Total
7	208	16	13	23	-	12	272
8	220	18	19	13	-	13	283
9	241	14	12	23	-	20	310
10	226	20	18	27	-	22	313
11	227	22	21	30	-	26	326
12	250	22	19	31	-	27	349
Totals	1,372	112	102	147	-	120	1,853

There were 229 students from Amherst who graduated with the class of 2006.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The instructional program, developed by teachers in all areas of the curriculum, reflects the overall philosophy and goals of education established by the School Committee. An appropriate range of support services remains in place to help students achieve their highest possible potential. Included among these programs are Guidance, Health Services, Special Education, and English Language Learners Program.

Amherst–Pelham Regional High School is a four-year comprehensive school and is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. The student body of the High School and Middle School is culturally diverse, with a population that comprises 70% Caucasian, 10% African-American, 10% Asian, 8% Hispanic and 1% Native American, and includes native speakers of 35 languages. Masters or doctoral degrees are held by 82% of the faculty.

The students in the Regional schools work hard and excel. For the 2005-2006 school year, the high school had 25 National Merit Commendations and 4 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists who received Certificates of Merit, in a class of 349 students. Ninety-two percent of our students will pursue higher education at colleges and universities across the nation after graduation from the Amherst Regional High School. Nationally normed standardized testing results reflect that, overall, our students score significantly above grade level in all areas tested. Students consistently enroll in courses beyond the standard graduation requirements.

Primary goals for the Regional Schools are as follows:

1. developing and maintaining an up-to-date, innovative, multicultural, academically challenging curriculum that promotes high standards and success for all students
2. providing creative, multi-faceted instruction that maintains high standards, engages all students, and enables all students to be successful learners
3. making all students feel fully welcome and a part of our schools, regardless of race, class, gender, language, religion, sexuality, culture, academic success, or physical abilities
4. eliminating the achievement gap among students from different racial, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds
5. addressing the demands and opportunities facing our schools as a result of the rapid growth in the use of technology throughout our society
6. increasing communication and collaboration among the district's stakeholders – students, parents, teachers, staff, administrators, and the larger community – and using parents and the community more effectively as educational resources
7. hiring and retaining a high quality teaching and administrative staff
8. equipping and maintaining school buildings to provide healthy, accessible, modern learning environments that support the achievement of our mission
9. sustaining a physically and emotionally safe environment in our schools for students and staff.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Principal activities and events during the 2006-2007 school year include the following:

Curriculum and Faculty Professional Development

- Work was completed on the K-12 Curriculum Guides for Mathematics, English/Language Arts, and Science. The completed guides are published on the district website at <http://www.arps.org/Curriculum>.
- A social studies curriculum review committee, chaired by ARHS principal Mark Jackson, began work in 2006. The work of this committee includes a process for school and community dialogue regarding social studies curriculum. The completed K-12 Social Studies Curriculum Guide is slated for publication in the summer of 2008.

ELL

- With the resignation of the ELL Director at the end of the 2005-2006 school year, Jeanne White, Student Services Administrator, was given district oversight of the ELL program. She worked with school-level coordinators to develop a model of oversight, program development, professional development, and assessment to address the restructuring of the ELL Department.
- The primary goal for ELL in FY 07 was to develop a comprehensive program model for ELL services for students K-12.

Facilities

In 2006-2007, the facilities staff completed or supervised the following projects in the Regional buildings:

- High School
 - windows inspected and repaired
 - handicap connector hallway renovation
 - library and Café door repair and modification
 - entrance ramp carpeting
 - backflow preventor rebuilt
 - access road storm drain reconstruction
 - rebuilt hot water valves
 - parking lot lights Lamping
- Middle School
 - boiler rebuilt
 - computer room air-conditioning
 - information systems egress installation
- Both Schools
 - HVAC, electrical, plumbing repairs and preventative maintenance
 - completed safety and fire inspections in all facilities.

Human Resources/Personnel

During 2006-2007, the Human Resources Department completed or is in the process of completing the following initiatives:

- Finalized the contract, statement of work, and functional specifications document with Kronos and implemented the new Kronos personnel database.
- Implemented 457/Flexible Spending Accounts for staff.

- Collected and reviewed demographic data on all staff to meet safety and software initiatives.
- Collected detailed background and educational information on all teachers and paraprofessionals in anticipation of the Massachusetts Department of Education new EPIMS (Educator Database) requirement.
- Implemented national criminal records check for new teachers coming from out-of-state.
- Performed over 1,500 criminal records checks of new and returning staff, all volunteers, coaches and tutors.
- Conducted a comprehensive Health Fair for all employees.
- Conducted an informational session for paraprofessionals to work toward degree and certification attainment.
- Completed contract negotiations with AFSCME cafeteria workers.
- Conducted Open Enrollment for insurance plans and flexible spending accounts.
- Completed negotiations for a one-year extension of the APEA (Amherst-Pelham Education Association) negotiated employment contract covering teachers, paraprofessionals and clerical staff. Administrators and cafeteria staff also agreed to an extension for an additional year through June 30, 2008.

Information Systems

In 2006-2007, the Information Systems department has completed or is continuing work on the following initiatives:

- Increased wide-area-network (WAN) backbone speed by a factor of 1,000.
- Consolidated network servers to a centralized location.
- Upgraded the Storage Area Network (SAN) – centralized storage of digital files and software.
- Continued working with other area districts and D.O.E.-selected COGNOS for a state-wide Educational Data Warehouse (EDW) for longitudinal analysis of student information and test scores.
- Prepared data for, and shipped local data to, the Educational Data Warehouse.
- Installed a remote backup server to accept nightly backups of district data to aid in disaster recovery.
- Worked with other area districts and D.O.E. to create reporting tools in the EDW for longitudinal analysis of student information and test scores.
- Centralized development of district-wide reports.
- Upgraded Student Information System from PowerSchool Pro to PowerSchool Premier for enhanced reporting and web-based GradeBook functions.
- Installed an emergency parent and staff notification system (Connect-Ed).
- Boosted Internet access “pipeline” from 3 mbps to 25 mbps.
- Installed Kronos Human Resources software.
- Explored and analyzed formative assessment software tools.

Program Development and Community Connections

In 2006-2007, the Office of Program Development:

- Secured a three-year federal foreign language instruction (FLAP) grant that will establish a K-6 Chinese language and culture program at the Wildwood School, fund a distance learning capability at the High School, and support the development of an exploratory foreign language program at the upper elementary level at all schools. A new Chinese teacher for

Wildwood Elementary has been hired, and work has begun on multi-level initiatives related to Chinese instruction in the schools.

- Secured an “Expanded Time on Learning” planning grant from the Massachusetts Department of Education. The grant will fund district-wide and school-based study groups which will consider the possibilities and implications of increasing learning time at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.
- Continued planning and collaboration with Amherst College to promote equity and achievement for all our students. This includes implementing a pilot “Pipeline Project” initiative, a school-year plus summer program of academic tutoring and mentoring for low-income students.
- Wendy Kohler, Executive Director of Program Development, served as a consultant to Amherst College in the establishment of their new “Center for Civic Engagement.” The new Pipeline Project, an innovative program for students in grades 6-9, began in the spring and continued with a summer program in July. Pipeline students met with Amherst College tutors in the spring on the College campus and then attended classes plus an enrichment program (led by ARPS teachers with Amherst College student assistants) during the month of July.
- Established and implemented new guidelines and fee structure for school facilities and fields use.
- Collaborated with the Amherst Education Foundation on the launching of a new AEF website that includes improved fund-raising capacities.
- Began working to gather data required for the EQA audit scheduled for Fall 2007.

Student Services

- The Student Services office oversaw all aspects of the CPR – Coordinated Program Review – which was conducted by the Department of Education in 2006-2007. The CPR includes an in-depth review of district programs, including special education, ELL, and Title I. The DOE will forward a full report of the CPR findings to the Superintendent at some time in late summer or early fall of 2007.
- Monthly, in-depth professional development for paraprofessionals has been implemented, along with a training manual. In addition, a substantial number of training programs have been provided for professional staff.

SENIOR CENTER/COUNCIL ON AGING (COA)

Fiscal Year 2007

PRINCIPAL GOAL: To run a multi-purpose Senior Center which serves as the community focal point for the provision of services to the elderly. The S. C. works to initiate, facilitate, coordinate, and/or provide those services which in the broadest sense enhance dignity, support independence, maintain health, and promote the involvement of Amherst's elderly in the general community.

THE SENIOR CENTER: A VITAL COMMUNITY RESOURCE

Whether it's simply reading our 16-page bi-monthly newsletter, *THE SENIOR SPIRIT*, or coming in daily for the hot lunch program, Amherst's older residents have come to rely on the Senior Center. Here are examples of some of our program and service offerings in FY 07:

CLINICS: foot care, ear irrigation, massage, blood pressure, flu/health fair, hearing aid repair, free consultations two days a week with an R.N., and psychological counseling.

FITNESS PROGRAMS/CLASSES: Strength conditioning, gentle fitness, aerobics, Tai Chi, folkdance, Qigong, gentle yoga, twice weekly walking club, line dancing, ballroom dancing, meditation, strength training, and Senior Health & Fitness Day.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES: MSWord/beginning computer, Advanced Computer, Using the Internet, "Drivewell" Driver Improvement, Shakespeare's Hamlet, Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice, Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra, knitting, sewing, watercolor/oil painting, cooking, financial management, memoir writing, short story readings, Amherst Fire Department classes in fire prevention, fall prevention & kitchen safety, Amherst Police Department RAD (Rape, Aggression and Defense) classes, Age of Darwin, cosmology, and Chinese calligraphy.

DISCUSSION/SUPPORT GROUPS: New Options, Kindred Spirits (Grandparents as Parents), Peace of Mind, Audio-Book Group for Visually Impaired Persons, Caregivers' and Late-Deafened Support Group.

SOCIAL RECREATION: Musical Showcases, bus/van/plane trips, Public Safety picnic, Thanksgiving Dinner, bridge, scrabble, Chinese mah-jongg, grocery bingo, sing-a-longs, travelogues, Thanksgiving Social, December Holiday Party, Volunteer Awards Social, and Grace Thayer's 100th birthday celebration.

EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS: Financial Planning, Cooley Dickinson Hospital Changes, "Medicare and You," Reverse Mortgage, Improving Overall Physical Well-Being, Chronic Disease Self-Management, Estate Planning, Health Plan Options for Seniors, Long Term Care Insurance, Care At Home-What You Need to Know, Essential Documents, Avoiding Being a Victim of Fraud, How Heart Attacks and Other Illnesses Present Differently in the Elderly, The Many Facets of Buddhism, Familiarizing Yourself with Assistance Programs, Helpful & Harmful: The Truth About Annuities, Protecting Your Home for Your Family, Colorectal Cancer, Osteoporosis, How Cancer Doctors Think, Understanding Parkinson's Disease, Could Your Posture Use Improvement, Enhanced Family Care, The Energy Crisis, Good Stress-Bad Stress, Hip and Knee Pain, RAD Self Defense, Skin Cancer, Chiropractic, Abbeyfield Housing Concept, Body, Mind & Spirit Seminar, Walking for Exercise and Pleasure, Using Your Walker to Best Advantage, PVTA Informational Meeting, and Quabbin: The Valley Filled With Water.

SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS: HVES (Highland Valley Elder Services) Title III Congregate hot lunch program, Meals on Wheels evening hot supper through the University of Massachusetts, HVES Title III Home Delivered hot lunch, tax assistance, leaf raking, personal care/homemaking referral, friendly visitor program, social worker counseling/I+R, Brown Bag monthly groceries through Western Mass. Food Bank, Food Box monthly groceries through Amherst Survival Center, free weekly bread/produce giveaway, food pantry, volunteer driving, SHINE health insurance counseling, tax assistance, Tax Work-Off intake, subsidized van ticket sales, farmers' market coupon distribution, medical rides and free wheelchair short-term loan program.

COUNSELING CENTER ESTABLISHED WITH MONIES FROM TITLE III GRANT

In November 2006, with funding from a Title III grant through Highland Valley Elder Services, the Senior Center opened a Counseling Center where appropriate elders and caregivers could receive 6 free sessions of psychotherapy. The Counseling Center began as a collaboration with the Psychological Services Center of UMass/Amherst; but within the first 2 quarters of the grant cycle it became clear that because of a conflict with the funding cycle of the Title III grant and the timing of when UMass/Amherst doctoral students needed to decide on a practicum site, we would only be able to contract with two students for a total of 3 hours per week. Additionally, the administrative costs of the grant were very high for the small number of elders and caregivers who were receiving services. To maximize the number of elders seen, we decided to hire a licensed social worker who is a Medicare provider to provide the counseling, and to end the relationship with the University. Since that change occurred, there has been an increase in the number of referrals to the program. An interesting note is that we learned from some elders that they did not use the services of the Counseling Center because students were providing the psychotherapy. From November 2006 through the end of June 2007 there was an unduplicated count of 12 elders and caregivers who received psychotherapy and a duplicated count of 52 psychotherapy sessions.

PARTICIPATION IN FREE/LOW COST FOOD PROGRAMS

Name of Program	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07
Congregate Hot Lunch	5,933	6,467 (9% increase)	6,973 (13.78% increase)	6,147 (11% decrease)
Meals on Wheels (UMass food delivered in evening)	3,796	3,843 (1% increase)	4,250 (11% increase)	5,006 (17% increase)
Home delivered meals (HVES food delivered at 11 AM)	12,889	13,663 (6% increase)	14,435 (6% increase)	16,118 (11% increase)
Brown Bag (Western Mass Food Bank)	696	735 (5% increase)	1,035 (41% increase)	1,017 (1% decrease)
Food Box (Survival Center food)	298	453 (52% increase)	450 (>1% change)	529 (17% increase)
Free Bread & Produce Giveaway	2,080	2,543 (22% increase)	5,282 (52% increase)	5,493 (3% increase)
Grocery Pantry Emergency Food Give-away	29	82 (283% increase)	102 (20% increase)	115 (12% increase)

In studying the changes this year, we weren't surprised to see a decrease in our congregate hot lunch program participation. The local transportation carrier that received the contract a year ago has been problematic and many riders are not using the service. When a new carrier begins at the beginning of 2008, we expect to resume the steady increase in our numbers. Our diners are now in pretty good shape physically, as the frailest among them went into assisted living, died or moved away. Our home-delivered meal program continues to grow at a fast pace, as people are living longer and find it difficult to shop and cook. As fuel costs increase, the home-delivered meal becomes more and more important also as a means to free limited funds for other essentials. We have six meal delivery routes daily to residents in Amherst and Pelham and we use volunteer drivers exclusively. With the price of fuel increasing, fewer drivers are willing to donate their gas; instead, they opt for the \$.35/mile stipend. The \$.91 per meal we get from our HVES Title III grant doesn't cover the gas reimbursement for meal recipients living on the far edges of Pelham. So far we haven't been able to find any Pelham residents to assist in deliveries there.

BUDGET CUTS

Our Program Coordinator, who was full-time (37.5/hrs) in FY 06, was reduced to four days a week (30/hrs) in FY 07 and to 20 hrs/wk in FY 08. Her salary is now primarily paid by the DEA Formula Grant, which will amount to \$19,383 for FY 08. Our Program Coordinator serves primarily as our Volunteer Coordinator, but she also has responsibilities to oversee a number of health/wellness and food programs. Our office supply and activities budgets were also cut by \$500.

"FRIENDS OF THE AMHERST SENIOR CENTER"

In 1977, members of the Amherst Council on Aging established The Senior Trust "to assist in carrying out programs designed to improve the quality of life for the aging," and this non-profit 501C-3 raised and accepted donations supporting programs and services of the Senior Center through the years. The fund now has about \$93,500 and continues to be a huge help in many areas. In 1995, the new Senior Center Director discovered that the design of the Trust was now in violation of State law – members of Town boards and committees must abide by the same conflict of interest laws as Town employees, i.e. they may not hold onto private monies on behalf of the Town. To remedy the situation, a committee was formed (including Town Counsel, the Town Manager, a few members of the COA and the Senior Center Director) to determine the best course of action. It was decided to establish a new 501C-3 corporation, entitled "Friends of the Amherst Senior Center," whose board of directors would be comprised primarily of non-COA members, so that fundraising could resume augmenting dwindling Town financial support. The bylaws have been written and all the necessary paperwork has been submitted to the Secretary of State, and presently we are waiting for our new tax ID number to be assigned. Transfer of Senior Trust monies to the Town and then from the Town to the Friends of the Senior Center fund will be on the fall 2007 warrant for Town Meeting approval.

TRANSPORTATION CRISIS

In October 2006, MV Transportation, a California company, was awarded a contract by the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVRTA) to run its regional van service for elders, as well as for younger people with special needs. It quickly became clear to riders that the transition from one carrier to another was going poorly. Folks waited inordinate lengths of time for pick-ups, some were stranded waiting for return trips, drivers hired from out of the region wandered lost through the streets, and getting through on the phone lines was a huge waiting game. During this crisis, Senior Center staff, together with members of the COA, provided rides, assisted with

communications, and attended public hearings scheduled by PVRTA to gather information about the issues riders were confronted with. The service has improved somewhat now, but MV will be losing its contract at the end of 2007. PVRTA is in the process of selecting a new carrier at the present time.

PVRTA has formed a regional advisory committee (of which our director is a member) to improve service with the current contractor and with transition to a new provider at the end of 2007. Communication has improved substantially with agencies such as ours.

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Although resources through the Town budget are limited, the Senior Center is able to offer a wide array of programs and services because of two important categories of contributions: **volunteer time** and **in-kind donations of goods and services**. In FY 07 approximately 12,492 hours of volunteer time was given by 265 volunteers in the following categories:

# of Hours Given	# of Volunteers
20 hours/week or more	1
5 hrs/wk up to 19.5 hrs/wk	11
1-5 hrs/wk	54
10hrs/yr to 50hrs/yr	102
Less than 10 hrs/yr	97

The value of these hours, according to the Points of Light Foundation is \$192,252.18.

In-kind donations represent tangible goods or services generally considered essential for the Senior Center's operations, but not paid for out of its budget. **See the table below summarizing FY 07 In-Kind donations:**

In-Kind Donation	Value
Rent/Space (gross square feet=7,399)	\$73,000 value
Transportation	\$5,339.58
Utilities	\$13,652
Van Garaging, Gas & Service	\$524.56
Custodial/Maintenance	\$41,505
Plowing/Outside Maintenance	\$1,500
Durable Medical Equipment	\$600
Recognition Events	\$263.71
Donated Goods	\$7665.65
Value of Crafts Made & Sold for Senior Center	\$1,930
Newspapers	\$8,715
Speakers/Presenters	\$1,200
Entertainers	\$4,550
Furniture/Equipment	\$2,826
Supplies—Program & Office	\$98.45
Cable TV Service	\$185
Luncheons/food	\$116,489
Books/Videos/Puzzles	\$200

Subscriptions	\$25
Information Technology Hardware	\$8,000
Money donated, raised	\$17,595.91
Total	\$306,854

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hirsh Pagano, Director

TOWN/COMMERCIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2007

CLARIFICATION OF OUR CHARGE

The Town/Commercial Relations Committee (TCRC) has the following charge and approach to its responsibilities:

- We advise the Select Board and Town Manager on issues affecting the business community.
- We have an additional role as the Parking Commission, providing the business perspective on changes to parking regulations and the assessment of parking needs in the Town.
- We act as a conduit for suggestions, comments and complaints for the Town's current business community.
- We perceive ourselves as a think tank, considering "big ideas" and futuristic possibilities for Amherst and responding to the needs of Town Meeting and Select Board for this thinking, but also lead the way.
- We are not pro-business development to the point of changing the nature of Amherst. We want sustainable, smart growth, not growth for growth's sake; we are looking for businesses with a good fit to existing businesses, not superstores.

The TCRC needs to operate at full strength, so there is a need to fill vacancies in a timely fashion with qualified, representative people in the right mix of business and at-large members.

The Select Board needs to seriously consider recommendations and policy proposals brought forward by the TCRC, as we are one of the few groups in town advocating for the business community.

DISCUSSIONS ENGAGED IN AND ACTIONS TAKEN

- TCRC made suggestions on holiday parking regulations which were accepted and published by the Select Board.
- CPC Representative – Barry Roberts was appointed to represent the TCRC on the Comprehensive Planning Committee.
- Permitting process – We addressed the Select Board, urging a streamlining of the process to eliminate or greatly reduce the image of a business un-friendly environment.
- 2007 Annual Town Meeting:
 - Supported Article 11 re Main and High Street rezoning to B-VC.
 - Voted unanimously to support in its entirety all 3 recommendations, Motions #1, #2, and #3 by the Board of Assessors, not to have a split tax rate. The concern is that a split tax rate would prove repressive to the business community.
 - Voted to reject the Article on Energy Conservation by Maintaining the Night Sky.
 - Voted to support the hiring of an economic development director, and think that for that position to succeed, it needs the broad support of the Town and Select Board, recognizing the need to increase the tax base and a vibrant downtown.

- Select Board requested and TCRC agreed to conduct a review of the 1992 Downtown Community Action Plan, identifying those recommendations that had been taken since publication and the recommendations that have been made obsolete by events.

POSITIONS OR INITIATIVES WE ENDORSE

Downtown Action Plan of 1992 (general updates and responses):

1. We have enough green space; we need ample parking; we can ill afford more parks at the expense of parking spaces when existing parks (Kendrick) have not been fully developed.
2. Town leaders need to communicate a clear message that we are business-friendly, through publicly displayed attitudes, zoning regulations, and staffing; eliminate need for so much special-permit zoning: most normal business uses should be by right; local boards need to each reflect a business-friendly climate, also reflecting diversity and what's good for our community as a whole.
3. The Town should promote the development of the north end of downtown by establishing incentives to attract development.
4. The Town needs to support full transportation access, including through the accommodation of cars, as well as ample public transportation, and pedestrian access; and the Town should be pedestrian-friendly in its design.
5. The Comprehensive Planning Committee needs to develop specific types of programming in the Master Plan that accomplish many of the ideas in the Downtown Action Plan.
6. Strategic vision needs to include economic development; a director could make this operational.
7. Amherst's true diversity depends on the ability of many types of people being able to live and work here.
8. There needs to be better marketing of improvements, activities, and initiatives downtown.
9. Creative ways to beautify downtown need to be developed (murals instead of graffiti).
10. The Town needs to invest in and maintain infrastructure, including signage, streetscape improvements, and public art.

Zoning:

1. There is limited available land remaining for business development in the Town; as a result, real consideration should be given to rezoning remaining parcels for commercial/business uses.
2. Too often in the past the opinions of a few outspoken people have outweighed the benefit of zone changes to the Town as a whole.
3. We are sensitive to the needs of abutters regarding traffic problems, sidewalks and other infrastructure issues; however, the use of contract zoning to extract concessions from potential developers should be minimized, if used at all. Our economic viability and business growth will only be corrected with a long-term vision rather than the short-sighted limitations that contract zoning seeks to impose.

Respectfully submitted,

Town Commercial Relations Committee
Mark L Parent
Chair

TOWN MEETING COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2007

The Town Meeting Coordinating Committee (TMCC) had its beginning in 2004 as an outgrowth of the Town Meeting Improvements Committee of 2003. Inclusion in the Town Bylaws for TMCC as a permanent committee of Town Meeting was voted by the Fall Town Meeting of 2005. Its seven members are elected from Town Meeting by Town Meeting members. The first duty of TMCC is to provide continuing leadership and organization to Town Meeting and to extend outreach to the community on behalf of Town Meeting. The duties of TMCC include but are not limited to the following:

1. organizing warrant forums prior to Town Meeting open to the public
2. communicating to the public about Town Meeting through various means
3. taking responsibility for the education and orientation for new members.

The Committee performs such other duties as determined by Town Meeting.

During the past year, TMCC met twenty times, working to help Town Meeting function effectively as the legislative body of the Town of Amherst.

Special Fall Town Meeting

A Warrant Review for Town Meeting members was jointly sponsored by TMCC and The League of Women Voters of Amherst on October 25 in the Middle School Auditorium. Articles were explained by sponsors. The meeting was broadcast live and rebroadcast several times on ACTV Channel 17. TMCC did not organize precinct meetings, but urged members of precincts to meet. Nearly all of the precincts did hold meetings.

Annual Town Meeting

In January, members of TMCC attended a Select Board meeting to publicly urge residents to run for Town Meeting seats in their precincts and to request that the Select Board complete and sign the Warrant earlier than in the past, in order to allow for planning the April 18 Warrant Review Meeting organized by TMCC and the League of Women Voters of Amherst. Notices of the date of the Warrant Review were sent to all committees and boards in order to prevent conflicts with important meetings. The timely signing of the Warrant was very helpful in planning coverage for warrant articles to be reviewed. The Town Meeting Moderator opened the Warrant Review with an orientation for new Town Meeting members. The Warrant Review was broadcast live and rebroadcast on ACTV Channel 17 during the 2 weeks before Town Meeting. We continue to discuss how to make Warrant Reviews helpful to Town Meeting members.

TMCC provided materials for the two mailings to Town Meeting members, including a list of three scheduled events to prepare them for Town Meeting, a reminder to sign up for the TMCC subscription list, a brochure summarizing the Town Government Act and directions on how to run for membership in TMCC in the election during Town Meeting.

A bus tour for Town Meeting members to view 10 sites related to Town Meeting articles was held on April 21. These tours are very popular, but funding is uncertain.

On April 24, TMCC sponsored a budget orientation. The Town Manager, Finance Director, Chair of the Finance Committee and School Superintendent explained the formation of the budget and their roles and responsibilities in the process. Although the meeting was planned for

new Town Meeting members, many older members attended. The meeting was covered live by ACTV and rebroadcast several times. This meeting was very well received by both Town Meeting members and the public.

Again, TMCC did not organize precinct meetings but urged precincts to hold meetings, which they did between April 26 and May 5. In the coming year we hope to become active again in the organization of precinct meetings.

Planning to improve the distribution of information to Town Meeting members

TMCC continues to strive to educate Town Meeting members on issues coming before Town Meeting by making information easily available. We solicit new subscribers to the TMCC Subscription List so that more Town Meeting members may receive hopefully helpful and timely information on articles prior to sessions. A subcommittee recommended ways to make information and resources available on the Town web site. A meeting was held with the president of ACTV to urge improved access to Town government programs with more reliable program schedules. Although individual members of TMCC may have strong views on articles, TMCC is dedicated to remaining neutral in providing information.

Establishing a process for handling suggestions to improve Town Meeting

TMCC has welcomed many suggestions regarding the functioning of Town Meeting. Suggestions and concerns for the Moderator were reviewed and sent to him. In response to complaints about lighting for Town Meeting in the Middle School auditorium, adjustments were made. It is hoped that plans for improved, more permanent wiring for Town Meeting will be realized in the coming year.

A process was adopted to acknowledge the receipt of suggestions, to determine the ability of TMCC to make suggested changes and to prioritize action. For suggestions that require action beyond the limited powers of TMCC, we will reply with directions to appropriate levels of government.

TMCC Members

Margaret R. Roberts, Chair
Mary Wentworth, Vice-Chair to June 20
Stephanie O'Keeffe, Secretary
Philip S. Jackson, Stacker
H. Oldham Brooks to June 20
Otto L. Stein
Merrylees Turner to June 20
Hwei-Ling Greeney, Select Board Liaison

Elected by Annual Town Meeting May 21, 2007

H. Oldham Brooks
Carol Jeannette Gray
Judy L. Simpson

VETERANS' SERVICES

Fiscal Year 2007

The Department of Veterans' Services continues to offer assistance to veterans and their families through a number of federal and state programs. The state veterans' benefit program provides temporary assistance to veterans and their families who qualify to receive benefits and can show need. These benefits provide for medical care and cash for living expenses.

The Department of Veterans' Services will also aid veterans and their families in the filing of federal forms that are necessary for them to receive a wide range of benefits provided by the Veterans' Administration. The Department now has access to many veteran-related internet sites and government agencies.

FISCAL YEAR 2007

The Welcome Home Bill II was enacted on May 16, 2007. The legislation is a successor bill to the comprehensive Veterans' Benefit Package signed last year.

This bill

- allows municipalities to charge less than eight percent (8%) interest when a real estate property tax deferral is granted to active military personnel who have a financial hardship due to being deployed
- allows a military spouse to renew a temporary certificate at no expense during the spouse's period of active military duty
- codifies the case-by-case determination that allows a military spouse to receive unemployment insurance if his or her spouse is permanently reassigned out of Massachusetts, and
- extends any professional license that may expire because of active military duty until 90 days after discharge from active military service, and waives any associated renewal fee.

Another program that has been enacted this year is the Military Enhanced Relief Individual Tax (MERIT) Plan. This plan generally expands property tax and motor vehicle excise exemptions available to veterans with service-connected disabilities.

The new administration of Patrick-Murray has re-activated the Advisory Council on Veterans' Services. The Governor's Advisory Council was re-activated by executive order in April and is meant to review and assess State and federal statutes and programs related to veterans and the delivery of services to veterans, including health care, education, housing, outreach, training and retraining. The Council also will educate the people of the Commonwealth and their elected and appointed officials regarding issues of importance to the Commonwealth's veterans.

The Memorial Parade and Ceremony this year was well attended and the weather held out. We were fortunate to have a fly-by from the Warthogs (A-10's) stationed at Barnes Air Reserve Base, this being the last year that they will be in our area.

The Veterans' Services Department, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 754, American Legion Post 148, and the UMass Veterans' Group in Amherst created an informal advisory committee to locally address issues regarding veterans. It is but the first step in the ongoing process to voice our concerns in regards to returning veterans, and how we all can serve them.

Roderick Raubeson, Veterans' Agent for the Town of Amherst for 18 years, retired on March 31, 2007. Kathleen Pollard was appointed the new Veterans' Agent for the Town.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Fiscal Year 2007

The Amherst Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) received forty-three (43) applications during FY 07, somewhat less than the previous banner year. All but one of the applications were for Special Permits. The other was an Appeal from a Decision of the Building Commissioner by a landlord concerning more than four (4) unrelated people living in a rented house; the appeal was denied.

The Board met fifty-one (51) times during FY 07. In addition to hearing cases, the full Board (3 regular and 4 associate members) had two business meetings to discuss several issues of note: a) the committee appointment and resignation process, b) whether ZBA meetings should be televised (not at this time), c) whether to increase the size of the regular membership from three to five members (no), d) to apply for Special Municipal Employee status and e) to update the Board's "Rules and Regulations." They also met in executive session several times to discuss pending litigation.

Thirty-seven (37) of the Special Permit applications were granted with conditions, none were denied, four (4) were withdrawn without prejudice and two (2) were still pending as of the end of the fiscal year.

One of the applications that has been ongoing for the past two years is Strawberry Fields, a 24-unit PURD condominium development proposed for an open area along South East Street. The FY 06 application for the PURD development was withdrawn in October 2006 because of the resignation of the ZBA Chair. The applicant re-applied for a second Special Permit with a new ZBA panel in FY 07, and this application has been continued six times throughout the year without a decision, in part because of pending litigation.

Eight (8) Special Permits were granted in FY 07 for new housing construction or for an increase in the number of dwelling units within an existing dwelling – i.e. a conversion to a two-family house or the addition of a supplemental apartment. These permits resulted in a total of ten (10) new dwelling units.

Other residential activity included the approval of six (6) new flag lots and the renewal of three (3) previously permitted flag lots. The flag lots and the newly approved dwelling units all received development authorization dates under Section 14 of the Zoning Bylaw.

Seven applications for Class II restaurants with later hours were filed this fiscal year. Three were for new restaurants in the downtown area, and three were for extension of hours for existing downtown restaurants. The other application was for the expansion of a restaurant in the North Amherst Village Center.

Special Permits of general interest included:

- SunEthanol – a UMass “spin off” research and development business exploring new ways of developing ethanol from corn stock waste
- Wheatberry – a new bakery at 321 Main Street
- La Piazza Ristorante – a new restaurant at 30 Boltwood Walk that replaces Pinnochio's, a favorite local Italian restaurant that was destroyed by fire

- T-Mobile Wireless – wireless telecommunication (cell phone) devices added on top of a science building at Amherst College
- Northeast Utilities – construction of two sheds along Pelham Road to house pumps associated with the clean-up of contaminated soil from a 1930s-era coal gasification plant
- An affordable two-family solar house on Henry Street designed by UMass landscape architecture students.

Tom Simpson was elected as Chair of the Zoning Board; Ted Rising was elected as Vice-Chair, and Barbara Ford as Clerk. Associate members re-appointed to serve in FY 07 were Hilda Greenbaum, Russ Frank, and Jane Ashby; Al Woodhull was appointed as a new associate member.

Planning Department staff members Christine Brestrup, Senior Planner; and Carolyn Holstein, Zoning Assistant, provided staff support to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

Members

Tom Simpson, Chair
Ted Rising, Vice-Chair
Barbara Ford, Clerk

Associate Members

Russ Frank
Jane Ashby
Hilda Greenbaum
Al Woodhull

Town of



AMHERST

Massachusetts

TOWN HALL
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Town Comptroller

Fiscal Year 2007

The accompanying pages include the Town of Amherst's unaudited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Sonia Aldrich
Comptroller

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Statement of Revenues and Other Sources and Expenditures and Other Uses – Budget and Actual – General Fund

Statement of Revenues and Other Sources and Expenditures and Other Uses – Budget and Actual – Sewer Fund, Water Fund, Solid Waste Fund and Transportation

Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Equity – Internal Service, includes Health Claims Trust Fund and Workers Compensation Fund

Health Claims Trust Fund – Detailed Income Statement

Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Equity – Stabilization Fund and Property and Casualty Insurance Claims

Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Equity – Expendable and Non-Expendable Trust Funds

Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Equity – Expendable and Non-Expendable Trust Funds – Detail Income Statement

FY 2007 Approved Budget – General Fund

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups
On June 30, 2007
(Unaudited)

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals
ASSETS	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,137,460.67	\$ 3,966,145.79	\$ 2,525,240.51	\$ 4,815,971.44	\$ 278,659.25	\$ 1,510,355.35		\$ 19,233,833.01
Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Receivables:								
Property taxes	17,025,905.33	-	-	10,742.96	-	-		17,036,648.29
Special assessments	-	185,196.62	-	-	-	-		185,196.62
Tax liens and foreclosures	274,834.26	221.55	-	7,239.02	-	-		282,294.83
Excises	293,381.67	-	-	-	-	-		293,381.67
Utility Charges	-	-	-	815,810.85	-	-		815,810.85
Departmental	-	579,622.31	-	329,094.55	-	27,905.10		936,621.96
Deposits receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Other receivables	45,360.31	48,344.11	-	-	-	-		93,704.42
Due from other governments	93,705.92	174,203.25	-	-	-	-		267,909.17
Cash and cash equivalents (LSSE Prepaids)	-	42,221.41	-	-	-	-		42,221.41
Inventory	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation	18,503,574.00	-	-	22,415,285.06	-	-		40,918,859.06
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds	-	68,385.00	-	5,865,977.26	-	-	\$ 5,054,022.44	10,988,384.70
Amounts to be provided - vacation and sick leave	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Assets	<u>\$ 42,374,222.16</u>	<u>\$ 5,064,340.04</u>	<u>\$ 2,525,240.51</u>	<u>\$ 34,260,121.14</u>	<u>\$ 278,659.25</u>	<u>\$ 1,538,260.45</u>	<u>\$ 5,054,022.44</u>	<u>\$ 91,094,865.99</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY								
Liabilities:								
Deferred revenue	\$ 17,679,767.47	\$ 1,255,344.53	\$ -	\$ 1,162,887.38	\$ -	\$ 27,905.10		\$ 20,125,904.48
Provision for abatements and exemptions	164,658.72	-	-	-	-	-		164,658.72
Accounts payable	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Accrued payroll and withholdings	1,602,105.98	65,864.44	-	-	-	-		1,667,970.42
Other liabilities	480,856.88	12,824.00	-	(51,738.65)	-	212,612.26		654,554.49
Bonds payable	-	68,385.00	-	5,865,977.26	-	-	\$ 5,054,022.44	10,988,384.70
Notes payable	-	-	390,000.00	-	-	-		390,000.00
Vacation and sick leave liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	<u>19,927,389.05</u>	<u>1,402,417.97</u>	<u>390,000.00</u>	<u>6,977,125.99</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>240,517.36</u>	<u>5,054,022.44</u>	<u>33,991,472.81</u>
Fund Equity:								
Reserved for encumbrances	551,141.74	154,600.93	352,129.94	462,957.63	-	-		1,520,830.24
Reserved for expenditures	237,893.00	1,619,611.00	-	150,404.00	-	-		2,007,908.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations	5,966.60	-	1,390,637.95	1,080,576.96	-	-		2,477,181.51
Reserved for Revenue deficit	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Reserved for appropriation deficit	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Reserved for endowments	-	-	-	-	-	312,295.16		312,295.16
Unreserved, designated	(226,042.00)	50,000.00	-	94,008.90	-	-		(82,033.10)
Unreserved, undesignated	3,376,925.77	1,837,710.14	392,472.62	-	278,659.25	985,447.93		6,871,215.71
Unreserved retained earnings	-	-	-	3,079,762.60	-	-		3,079,762.60
Investment in capital assets	18,503,574.00	-	-	22,415,285.06	-	-		40,918,859.06
Reserved for overlay deficits	(2,626.00)	-	-	-	-	-		(2,626.00)
Reserved for over/under assessments	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Total Fund Equity	<u>22,446,833.11</u>	<u>3,661,922.07</u>	<u>2,135,240.51</u>	<u>27,282,995.15</u>	<u>278,659.25</u>	<u>1,297,743.09</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>57,103,393.18</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	<u>\$ 42,374,222.16</u>	<u>\$ 5,064,340.04</u>	<u>\$ 2,525,240.51</u>	<u>\$ 34,260,121.14</u>	<u>\$ 278,659.25</u>	<u>\$ 1,538,260.45</u>	<u>\$ 5,054,022.44</u>	<u>\$ 91,094,865.99</u>

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and
Changes in Fund Equity
All Governmental Fund Types and Expendable Trust Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2007
(Unaudited)

	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary Fund Types	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Expendable Trust	
Revenues:					
Property taxes	31,745,174.42	221,320.71	-	-	31,966,495.13
Excise	1,535,253.82	-	-	-	1,535,253.82
Interest, penalties and other taxes	1,107,213.08	-	-	-	1,107,213.08
Charges for services	-	3,323,942.92	-	-	3,323,942.92
Licenses and permits	792,491.20	-	-	-	792,491.20
Intergovernmental	16,820,804.99	3,295,909.42	1,683,043.00	-	21,799,757.41
Fines and forfeits	190,056.45	-	-	-	190,056.45
Interest earnings	439,706.14	20,955.99	-	62,452.52	523,114.65
Miscellaneous	2,146,441.55	389,898.06	108,968.00	18,929.29	2,664,236.90
Audit Adjustment	-	-	-	-	-
Contributions	44,922.00	152,394.49	-	-	197,316.49
Total Revenues	<u>54,822,063.65</u>	<u>7,404,421.59</u>	<u>1,792,011.00</u>	<u>81,381.81</u>	<u>64,099,878.05</u>
Expenditures:					
General Government	8,332,393.76	48,792.10	360,789.35	28,949.14	8,770,924.35
Public Safety	8,129,635.43	663,320.87	388,399.41	-	9,181,355.71
Public Works	1,735,354.17	838,984.37	196,860.16	-	2,771,198.70
Planning, Conservation and Inspections	821,177.21	57,470.93	691,807.19	-	1,570,455.33
Community Services	1,839,668.92	1,588,107.86	93,426.48	-	3,521,203.26
Library Services	1,568,346.03	16,109.13	58,974.51	-	1,643,429.67
Education	31,351,681.32	1,296,325.63	228,849.55	-	32,876,856.50
Debt Service	1,365,028.20	5,270.00	-	-	1,370,298.20
Intergovernmental	949,303.10	-	-	-	949,303.10
Total Expenditures	<u>56,092,588.14</u>	<u>4,514,380.89</u>	<u>2,019,106.65</u>	<u>28,949.14</u>	<u>62,655,024.82</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(1,270,524.49)	2,890,040.70	(227,095.65)	52,432.67	1,444,853.23
Other Financing Sources (Uses):					
Bond Proceeds	-	-	-	-	-
Operating transfers in	3,733,171.04	56,000.00	2,194,586.00	-	5,983,757.04
Operating transfers (out)	(1,453,030.00)	(2,520,024.00)	(398,643.00)	(1,000,000.00)	(5,371,697.00)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>2,280,141.04</u>	<u>(2,464,024.00)</u>	<u>1,795,943.00</u>	<u>(1,000,000.00)</u>	<u>612,060.04</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses	1,009,616.55	426,016.70	1,568,847.35	(947,567.33)	2,056,913.27
Fund Equity, July 1, 2006	<u>2,933,642.56</u>	<u>3,235,905.37</u>	<u>566,393.16</u>	<u>1,843,763.45</u>	<u>8,579,704.54</u>
Fund Equity, June 30, 2007	<u>\$ 3,943,259.11</u>	<u>\$ 3,661,922.07</u>	<u>\$ 2,135,240.51</u>	<u>\$ 896,196.12</u>	<u>\$ 10,636,617.81</u>

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and
Changes in Fund Equity
All Proprietary Fund and Similar Trust Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2007
(Unaudited)

	Enterprise	Internal Service	Fiduciary Fund Types Non-expendable Trust Funds	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Revenues:				
Property taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Excise	-	-	-	-
Interest, penalties and other taxes	-	-	-	-
Charges for services	7,350,954.47	10,866,009.93	-	18,216,964.40
Licenses and permits	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental	300,072.66	-	-	300,072.66
Fines and forfeits	-	-	-	-
Interest earnings	235,666.24	27,371.62	17,055.81	280,093.67
Miscellaneous	223,573.96	816.84	2,610.00	227,000.80
Contributions	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>8,110,267.33</u>	<u>10,894,198.39</u>	<u>19,665.81</u>	<u>19,024,131.53</u>
Expenditures:				
General Government	-	10,961,904.09	-	10,961,904.09
Public Safety	-	-	-	-
Public Works	7,128,073.25	-	-	7,128,073.25
Planning, Conservation and Inspections	-	-	-	-
Community Services	-	-	7,860.29	7,860.29
Library Services	-	-	-	-
Education	-	-	-	-
Debt Service	1,080,137.18	-	-	1,080,137.18
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	<u>8,208,210.43</u>	<u>10,961,904.09</u>	<u>7,860.29</u>	<u>19,177,974.81</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(97,943.10)	(67,705.70)	11,805.52	(153,843.28)
Other Financing Sources (Uses):				
Bond Proceeds	-	-	-	-
Operating transfers in	919,000.00	166,087.00	-	1,085,087.00
Operating transfers (out)	(1,697,147.04)	-	-	(1,697,147.04)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>(778,147.04)</u>	<u>166,087.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(612,060.04)</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses	(876,090.14)	98,381.30	11,805.52	(765,903.32)
Fund Equity, July 1, 2006	<u>5,743,800.23</u>	<u>180,277.95</u>	<u>389,741.45</u>	<u>6,313,819.63</u>
Fund Equity, June 30, 2007	<u>\$ 4,867,710.09</u>	<u>\$ 278,659.25</u>	<u>\$ 401,546.97</u>	<u>\$ 5,547,916.31</u>

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Statement of Revenues and Other Sources and Expenditures and Other Uses
Budget and Actual - General Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2007
(Unaudited)

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues and Other Sources:			
Property taxes	31,767,962.00	31,745,174.42	▲ (22,787.58)
Excise	1,475,000.00	1,535,253.82	60,253.82
Penalties, interest and other taxes	1,083,958.00	1,107,213.08	23,255.08
Licenses and permits	845,535.00	792,491.20	(53,043.80)
Intergovernmental	16,777,817.00	16,820,804.99	42,987.99
Fines and forfeits	150,000.00	190,056.45	40,056.45
Interest earnings	275,000.00	439,706.14	164,706.14
Miscellaneous	1,515,312.00	2,430,563.31	915,251.31
Contributions	44,922.00	44,922.00	0.00
Transfers in	3,444,659.00	3,447,737.04	3,078.04
Other Sources (free cash and overlay)	216,087.00	216,087.00	0.00
Total Revenues and Other Sources	<u>57,596,252.00</u>	<u>58,770,009.45</u>	1,173,757.45
Expenditures and Other Uses:			
General Government	5,456,907.00	5,423,700.19	33,206.81
Special Appropriations	2,835,526.00	2,835,526.00	0.00
Public Safety	8,029,047.00	8,020,321.36	8,725.64
Public Works	1,737,044.00	1,735,256.20	1,787.80
Planning, Conservation and Inspections	863,247.00	837,406.55	25,840.45
Community Services	1,861,648.00	1,861,637.89	10.11
Library Services	1,574,832.00	1,574,396.03	435.97
Education	31,168,186.00	31,045,413.72	122,772.28
Debt Service	1,300,559.00	1,294,828.20	5,730.80
Region and Deferred Teachers Pay	459,014.00	458,161.08	852.92
Intergovernmental-Assessments	857,212.00	974,437.04	(117,225.04)
Transfers Out	1,453,030.00	1,453,030.00	0.00
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	<u>57,596,252.00</u>	<u>57,514,114.26</u>	82,137.74
Excess of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,255,895.19</u>	<u>1,255,895.19</u>

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Statement of Revenues and Other Sources,
and Expenses and Other Uses
Budget and Actual - Sewer Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2007
(Unaudited)

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues and Other Sources:			
Charges for services	\$ 2,946,200	\$ 3,053,860	\$ 107,660
Interest earnings	38,000	75,414	37,414
Other sources	333,688	385,404	51,716
Total Revenues and Other Sources	<u>3,317,888</u>	<u>3,514,678</u>	<u>196,790</u>
Expenses and Other Uses:			
Personnel	\$ 1,187,692	1,081,743	105,949
Purchase of services	805,900	843,377	(37,477)
Supplies	45,600	41,927	3,673
Other charges and expenses	397,697	388,784	8,913
Transfers	296,789	296,789	-
Capital outlay	225,000	225,000	-
Debt service	359,210	354,960	4,250
Other uses			-
Total Expenses and Other Uses	<u>3,317,888</u>	<u>3,232,580</u>	<u>85,308</u>
Excess of revenues and other sources over expenses and other uses	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 282,098</u>	<u>\$ 282,098</u>

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Statement of Revenues and Other Sources,
and Expenses and Other Uses
Budget and Actual - Water Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2007
(Unaudited)

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues and Other Sources:			
Charges for services	\$ 3,188,000	\$ 2,987,651	\$ (200,349)
Interest earnings	47,900	94,554	46,654
Other sources	706,692	762,893	56,201
Total Revenues and Other Sources	<u>3,942,592</u>	<u>3,845,098</u>	<u>(97,494)</u>
Expenses and Other Uses:			
Personnel	1,019,743	962,062	57,681
Purchase of services	492,300	444,156	48,144
Supplies	124,950	111,612	13,338
Other charges and expenses	641,846	647,347	(5,501)
Transfers	386,766	386,766	-
Capital outlay	684,000	684,000	-
Debt service	592,987	592,987	0
Other uses			-
Total Expenses and Other Uses	<u>3,942,592</u>	<u>3,828,930</u>	<u>113,662</u>
Excess of revenues and other sources over expenses and other uses	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 16,168</u>	<u>\$ 16,168</u>

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Statement of Revenues and Other Sources,
and Expenses and Other Uses
Budget and Actual - Solid Waste Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2007
(Unaudited)

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues and Other Sources:			
Charges for services	\$ 365,000	\$ 358,883	\$ (6,117)
Intergovernmental			\$ -
Interest earnings	30,000	43,370	\$ 13,370
Other sources (sale of fixed assets)	78,497	80,935	\$ 2,438
Total Revenues and Other Sources	<u>473,497</u>	<u>483,189</u>	<u>9,692</u>
Expenses and Other Uses:			
Personnel	230,117	216,854	13,263
Purchase of services	212,200	211,002	1,198
Supplies	5,200	2,469	2,731
Other charges and expenses	25,980	42,990	(17,010)
Transfers			-
Capital outlay		-	-
Debt service			-
Other uses			-
Total Expenses and Other Uses	<u>473,497</u>	<u>473,315</u>	<u>182</u>
Excess of revenues and other sources over expenses and other uses	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 9,874</u>	<u>\$ 9,874</u>

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Statement of Revenues and Other Sources,
and Expenses and Other Uses
Budget and Actual -Transportation Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2007
(Unaudited)

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues and Other Sources:			
Charges for services	\$ 910,199	\$ 903,122	\$ (7,077)
Intergovernmental			-
Interest earnings	10,000	22,328	12,328
Other sources			-
Total Revenues and Other Sources	<u>920,199</u>	<u>925,450</u>	<u>5,251</u>
Expenses and Other Uses:			
Personnel	194,029	192,154	1,875
Purchase of services	63,856	67,165	(3,309)
Supplies	8,000	6,939	1,061
Other charges and expenses	420,609	419,682	927
Transfers	101,514	101,514	-
Capital outlay			-
Debt service	132,191	132,190	1
Other uses			-
Total Expenses and Other Uses	<u>920,199</u>	<u>919,644</u>	<u>555</u>
Excess of revenues and other sources over expenses and other uses	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,806</u>	<u>\$ 5,806</u>

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and
Changes in Fund Equity
All Internal Service Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2007
(Unaudited)

	7401 Health Insurance	7402 Workers' Compensation	Total
Revenues:			
Property taxes			-
Excise			-
Interest, penalties and other taxes			-
Charges for services	10,793,697.67	72,312.26	10,866,009.93
Licenses and permits			-
Intergovernmental			-
Fines and forfeits			-
Interest earnings	8,517.53	18,854.09	27,371.62
Miscellaneous	816.84		816.84
Contributions			-
Total Revenues	<u>10,803,032.04</u>	<u>91,166.35</u>	<u>10,894,198.39</u>
Expenditures:			
General Government	10,914,925.26	46,978.83	10,961,904.09
Public Safety			-
Public Works			-
Planning, Conservation and Inspections			-
Community Services			-
Library Services			-
Education			-
Debt Service			-
Intergovernmental			-
Total Expenditures	<u>10,914,925.26</u>	<u>46,978.83</u>	<u>10,961,904.09</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(111,893.22)	44,187.52	(67,705.70)
Other Financing Sources (Uses):			
Bond Proceeds			-
Operating transfers in	166,087.00		166,087.00
Operating transfers (out)			-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>166,087.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>166,087.00</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses	54,193.78	44,187.52	98,381.30
Fund Equity, July 1, 2006	<u>(166,086.98)</u>	<u>346,364.93</u>	<u>180,277.95</u>
Fund Equity, June 30, 2007	<u>\$ (111,893.20)</u>	<u>\$ 390,552.45</u>	<u>\$ 278,659.25</u>

Health Claims Trust Fund Detail Income Statement
Fiscal Year 2007

	July '06	August '06	September '06	October '06	November '06	December '06	January '07	February '07	March '07	April '07	May '07	June '07	TOTALS
Fund Balance Beginning of Month	\$ (166,086.98)	\$ (47,561.79)	\$ (124,289.52)	\$ (364,455.46)	\$ (236,830.52)	\$ (718,490.38)	\$ (500,511.95)	\$ (442,133.98)	\$ (613,230.15)	\$ (672,156.85)	\$ (522,273.96)	\$ (506,026.25)	
Premium Revenue BC/BS:													
Town of Amherst-PPO	\$ 20,667.92	\$ 20,667.92	\$ 20,667.92	\$ 20,667.92	\$ 20,667.92	\$ 20,667.92	\$ 22,622.80	\$ 22,622.80	\$ 22,622.80	\$ 22,622.80	\$ 22,622.80	\$ 22,622.80	259744.32
Retirees	\$ 41,315.06	\$ 41,722.68	\$ 41,722.68	\$ 41,070.36	\$ 41,070.36	\$ 40,300.86	\$ 42,014.34	\$ 42,990.78	\$ 42,990.78	\$ 42,231.40	\$ 39,925.80	\$ 38,875.80	496230.9
TEFRA	\$ 468.76	\$ 468.76	\$ 468.76	\$ 468.76	\$ 468.76	\$ 468.76	\$ 525.00	\$ 525.00	\$ 525.00	\$ 525.00	\$ 525.00	\$ 525.00	5962.56
Amherst School-PPO	\$ 32,102.78	\$ 31,695.16	\$ 31,226.40	\$ 26,742.08	\$ 27,863.16	\$ 27,863.16	\$ 30,681.40	\$ 29,631.40	\$ 30,156.40	\$ 31,731.40	\$ 30,681.40	\$ 30,156.40	360531.14
Regional School-PPO	\$ 35,206.40	\$ 35,628.80	\$ 35,628.80	\$ 30,206.96	\$ 34,324.16	\$ 33,671.84	\$ 37,712.00	\$ 37,187.00	\$ 37,187.00	\$ 36,662.00	\$ 36,137.00	\$ 36,137.00	425688.96
Town of Pelham-PPO	\$ 2,527.36	\$ 2,527.36	\$ 2,527.36	\$ 2,527.36	\$ 2,527.36	\$ 2,527.36	\$ 2,830.60	\$ 2,830.60	\$ 2,830.60	\$ 2,830.60	\$ 2,830.60	\$ 2,830.60	32147.76
Town of Amherst-HMO	\$ 2,357.11	\$ 1,919.93	\$ 1,919.93	\$ 1,919.93	\$ 2,357.11	\$ 5,493.82	\$ 11,135.12	\$ 11,135.12	\$ 11,135.12	\$ 11,135.12	\$ 10,645.48	\$ 11,624.76	82778.55
Amherst School-HMO	\$ 3,573.89	\$ 3,573.89	\$ 3,573.89	\$ 9,238.92	\$ 9,238.92	\$ 9,238.92	\$ 13,860.72	\$ 13,860.72	\$ 13,860.72	\$ 16,202.80	\$ 15,031.76	\$ 17,863.48	129118.63
Regional School-HMO	\$ 16,386.70	\$ 16,386.70	\$ 17,432.27	\$ 26,062.80	\$ 28,419.91	\$ 28,857.09	\$ 35,151.68	\$ 35,151.68	\$ 36,322.72	\$ 37,791.64	\$ 37,302.00	\$ 37,302.00	352567.19
Town of Pelham-HMO	\$ 2,528.32	\$ 2,528.32	\$ 2,528.32	\$ 2,528.32	\$ 2,528.32	\$ 2,528.32	\$ 3,321.36	\$ 3,321.36	\$ 3,321.36	\$ 3,321.36	\$ 3,321.36	\$ 3,321.36	35098.08
Retirees-HMO	\$ 437.18	\$ 437.18	\$ 437.18	\$ 437.18	\$ 437.18	\$ 437.18	\$ 489.64	\$ 489.64	\$ 489.64	\$ 489.64	\$ 489.64	\$ 489.64	5560.92
OME	\$ 36,875.26	\$ 36,517.14	\$ 36,517.14	\$ 35,779.42	\$ 36,517.14	\$ 36,517.14	\$ 36,517.14	\$ 36,517.14	\$ 36,148.28	\$ 36,148.28	\$ 37,623.72	\$ 37,254.86	438932.66
Premium Revenue HP:													
Town of Amherst-PPO	\$ 169,377.52	\$ 165,575.36	\$ 167,898.84	\$ 164,603.84	\$ 162,660.80	\$ 162,470.58	\$ 163,634.72	\$ 173,072.48	\$ 175,130.76	\$ 172,528.44	\$ 173,829.60	\$ 171,984.40	2022767.34
Retirees	\$ 46,973.26	\$ 46,973.26	\$ 48,135.00	\$ 50,151.36	\$ 50,151.36	\$ 50,151.36	\$ 54,108.88	\$ 51,556.64	\$ 52,901.36	\$ 53,401.61	\$ 52,419.61	\$ 52,551.00	609474.7
Amherst School-PPO	\$ 178,354.50	\$ 178,354.50	\$ 179,220.70	\$ 158,689.82	\$ 161,499.06	\$ 157,823.62	\$ 169,109.40	\$ 167,419.00	\$ 166,448.80	\$ 164,272.64	\$ 165,029.76	\$ 165,573.80	2011795.6
Regional School-PPO	\$ 207,184.14	\$ 206,212.62	\$ 201,460.34	\$ 181,394.80	\$ 179,176.64	\$ 180,042.84	\$ 190,576.96	\$ 189,275.80	\$ 188,731.76	\$ 187,643.68	\$ 187,643.68	\$ 187,643.68	2286986.94
Town of Pelham-PPO	\$ 15,883.92	\$ 15,883.92	\$ 15,883.92	\$ 15,883.92	\$ 16,559.90	\$ 16,074.14	\$ 18,547.20	\$ 18,547.20	\$ 18,547.20	\$ 18,547.20	\$ 18,547.20	\$ 18,547.20	207452.92
Town of Amherst-HMO	\$ 21,177.37	\$ 24,142.87	\$ 23,097.30	\$ 23,097.30	\$ 22,051.73	\$ 23,268.51	\$ 26,166.88	\$ 26,292.35	\$ 27,827.56	\$ 27,827.56	\$ 28,998.60	\$ 28,317.20	302265.23
Amherst School-HMO	\$ 15,169.92	\$ 15,169.92	\$ 15,169.92	\$ 14,998.71	\$ 15,607.10	\$ 15,607.10	\$ 26,464.76	\$ 26,464.76	\$ 26,464.76	\$ 29,296.48	\$ 28,125.44	\$ 28,806.84	257345.71
Regional School-HMO	\$ 15,435.89	\$ 15,435.89	\$ 15,873.07	\$ 21,804.07	\$ 21,366.89	\$ 21,804.07	\$ 29,646.82	\$ 31,255.04	\$ 31,255.04	\$ 31,255.04	\$ 32,617.84	\$ 31,936.44	299686.1
Town of Pelham-HMO	\$ 2,091.14	\$ 2,091.14	\$ 2,091.14	\$ 2,091.14	\$ 2,091.14	\$ 2,091.14	\$ 2,342.08	\$ 2,342.08	\$ 2,342.08	\$ 2,342.08	\$ 2,342.08	\$ 2,342.08	26599.32
Retirees-HMO								\$ 2,129.82	\$ 1,171.04	\$ 1,171.04	\$ 1,171.04	\$ 1,171.04	6813.98
Other Revenue:													
Interest		\$ 971.14	\$ 694.05	\$ 880.35	\$ 1,158.86	\$ 456.79	\$ 641.52	\$ 570.04	\$ 1,106.80	\$ 600.95	\$ 810.95	\$ 626.08	8517.53
Misc.						\$ 166,087.00		\$ 673.36	\$ 143.48				166903.84
Stop Loss Reimbursements											\$ 55,179.63	\$ 82,968.53	138148.16
Total Revenue:	\$ 866,094.40	\$ 864,884.46	\$ 864,174.93	\$ 831,245.32	\$ 838,743.78	\$ 1,004,449.52	\$ 918,101.02	\$ 925,861.81	\$ 929,661.06	\$ 930,578.76	\$ 983,851.99	\$ 1,011,471.99	10969119.04
Expenditures:													
Salaries/Benefits	\$ 2,773.19	\$ 2,790.20	\$ 3,796.05	\$ 2,790.21	\$ 3,179.45	\$ 2,790.20	\$ 3,695.46	\$ 2,790.20	\$ 3,796.07	\$ 2,790.20	\$ 3,179.45	\$ 2,790.20	37160.88
Management Services BC/BS-PPO	\$ 26,143.01		\$ 26,634.56		\$ 26,049.42	\$ 13,062.74	\$ 12,999.40	\$ 12,797.17	\$ 12,733.83	\$ 12,581.01	\$ 12,708.77	\$ 12,883.94	168593.85
Management Services HP-PPO	\$ 38,765.76	\$ 38,455.96		\$ 38,428.91	\$ 71,825.26	\$ 35,808.08		\$ 68,182.69	\$ 33,950.85	\$ 33,745.97	\$ 33,513.44	\$ 31,693.45	424370.37
Claims exp - BC/BS-PPO	\$ 33,381.77	\$ 236,550.35	\$ 443,793.91		\$ 502,638.37	\$ 197,210.14	\$ 262,424.13	\$ 235,299.41	\$ 192,329.99	\$ 162,246.67	\$ 190,558.69	\$ 150,542.36	2606975.79
Claims exp - HP-PPO	\$ 623,259.72	\$ 637,091.01	\$ 570,535.26	\$ 573,883.41	\$ 627,498.82	\$ 464,304.64	\$ 514,592.69	\$ 683,305.81	\$ 664,425.68	\$ 507,873.48	\$ 610,282.81	\$ 326,523.71	6803577.04
Management Services BC/BS-HMO	\$ 1,490.40		\$ 1,900.20	\$ 1,900.20	\$ 4,964.30	\$ 3,293.68	\$ 3,483.70	\$ 4,307.12	\$ 4,307.12		\$ 8,994.28	\$ 4,509.79	39150.79
Management Services HP-HMO	\$ 3,721.46	\$ 3,926.58		\$ 3,884.88	\$ 8,506.84	\$ 4,336.82		\$ 10,683.14	\$ 5,495.41	\$ 5,670.10	\$ 5,681.37	\$ 5,674.42	57581.02
Claims exp - BC/BS-HMO	\$ 2,477.27	\$ 2,207.71	\$ 5,985.05	\$ 27,905.25	\$ 25,213.09	\$ 20,255.07	\$ 19,490.89	\$ 24,327.41	\$ 25,570.21		\$ 60,932.56	\$ 39,956.91	254321.42
Claims exp - HP-HMO	\$ 807.05	\$ 5,922.08	\$ 37,049.05	\$ 51,524.84	\$ 25,523.29	\$ 31,441.62	\$ 41,786.78	\$ 24,311.98	\$ 31,162.10	\$ 36,833.74	\$ 25,083.06	\$ 26,901.06	338346.65
Amherst Meds								\$ 4,412.50	\$ 870.60	\$ 4,978.90	\$ 2,756.80	\$ 1,938.80	14957.6
Reinsurance	\$ 13,499.58	\$ 13,418.30	\$ 13,396.79	\$ 2,052.68	\$ 20,649.60	\$ 12,718.10		\$ 25,290.55	\$ 12,695.90	\$ 12,725.80	\$ 12,663.05	\$ 12,674.30	151784.65
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 4,355.20	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	18105.2
Total Expenditures:	\$ 747,569.21	\$ 941,612.19	\$ 1,104,340.87	\$ 703,620.38	\$ 1,320,403.64	\$ 786,471.09	\$ 859,723.05	\$ 1,096,957.98	\$ 988,587.76	\$ 780,695.87	\$ 967,604.28	\$ 617,338.94	10914925.26
Income (Loss) from Operations	\$ 118,525.19	\$ (76,727.73)	\$ (240,165.94)	\$ 127,624.94	\$ (481,659.86)	\$ 217,978.43	\$ 58,377.97	\$ (171,096.17)	\$ (58,926.70)	\$ 149,882.89	\$ 16,247.71	\$ 394,133.05	54193.78
Fund Balance end of Month:	\$ (47,561.79)	\$ (124,289.52)	\$ (364,455.46)	\$ (236,830.52)	\$ (718,490.38)	\$ (500,511.95)	\$ (442,133.98)	\$ (613,230.15)	\$ (672,156.85)	\$ (522,273.96)	\$ (506,026.25)	\$ (111,893.20)	

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and
Changes in Fund Equity
Stabilization Fund and Property Casualty Insurance Claims
All Expendable Trust Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2007
(unaudited)

	8004 Stabilization Fund	8406 Insurance Claims	Total
Revenues:			
Property taxes			-
Excise			-
Interest, penalties and other taxes			-
Charges for services			-
Licenses and permits			-
Intergovernmental			-
Fines and forfeits			-
Interest earnings	61,432.79	1,019.73	62,452.52
Miscellaneous		18,929.29	18,929.29
Contributions			-
Total Revenues	<u>61,432.79</u>	<u>19,949.02</u>	<u>81,381.81</u>
Expenditures:			
General Government		28,949.14	28,949.14
Public Safety			-
Public Works			-
Planning, Conservation and Inspections			-
Community Services			-
Library Services			-
Education			-
Debt Service			-
Intergovernmental			-
Total Expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>28,949.14</u>	<u>28,949.14</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	61,432.79	(9,000.12)	52,432.67
Other Financing Sources (Uses):			
Bond Proceeds			-
Operating transfers in	-		-
Operating transfers (out)	(1,000,000.00)		(1,000,000.00)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>(1,000,000.00)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,000,000.00)</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses	(938,567.21)	(9,000.12)	(947,567.33)
Fund Equity, July 1, 2006	<u>1,801,720.29</u>	<u>42,043.16</u>	<u>1,843,763.45</u>
Fund Equity, June 30, 2007	<u>\$ 863,153.08</u>	<u>\$ 33,043.04</u>	<u>\$ 896,196.12</u>

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and
Changes in Fund Equity
All Non-Expendable Trust Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2007
(unaudited)

	8401 Trust Principal	8402 Trust Income	Total
Revenues:			
Property taxes			-
Excise			-
Interest, penalties and other taxes			-
Charges for services			-
Licenses and permits			-
Intergovernmental			-
Fines and forfeits			-
Interest earnings	592.46	16,463.35	17,055.81
Miscellaneous	2,610.00		2,610.00
Contributions			-
Total Revenues	<u>3,202.46</u>	<u>16,463.35</u>	<u>19,665.81</u>
Expenditures:			
General Government			-
Public Safety			-
Public Works			-
Planning, Conservation and Inspections			-
Community Services		7,860.29	7,860.29
Library Services			-
Education			-
Debt Service			-
Intergovernmental			-
Total Expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>7,860.29</u>	<u>7,860.29</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	3,202.46	8,603.06	11,805.52
Other Financing Sources (Uses):			
Bond Proceeds			-
Operating transfers in			-
Operating transfers (out)			-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses	3,202.46	8,603.06	11,805.52
Fund Equity, July 1, 2006	<u>309,092.70</u>	<u>80,648.75</u>	<u>389,741.45</u>
Fund Equity, June 30, 2007	<u><u>\$ 312,295.16</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 89,251.81</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 401,546.97</u></u>

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Equity
Expendable and Non-Expendable Trust Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2007
(Unaudited)

	Interest	Other Revenues	Total Resources	Operating Expenditures	Excess (Deficiency)	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Net Change in Fund Balance	Fund Balance June 30, 2006	Fund Balance June 30, 2007
Martha D. Bianchi Fund			-		-			\$ -	1,025.00	1,025.00
Alice C. Burnham Fund			-		-			-	15,020.66	15,020.66
Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund	2,610.00		2,610.00		2,610.00			2,610.00	93,340.14	95,950.14
Ephraim Y. Cosby Fund			-		-			-	500.00	500.00
Florence B. Cutler Fund			-		-			-	2,000.00	2,000.00
S. White Dickinson Fund			-		-			-	5,000.00	5,000.00
George S. Kendrick Fund			-		-			-	1,899.15	1,899.15
Herbert B. Adams Fund			-		-			-	2,814.31	2,814.31
R. J. D. Westcott Fund			-		-			-	3,000.00	3,000.00
Alfred F. Field Jr. Fund			-		-			-	82,442.15	82,442.15
William E. Smith Fund			-		-			-	1,899.15	1,899.15
Whiting Street Fund			-		-			-	9,040.61	9,040.61
E. F. Cook Fountain Fund			-		-			-	2,346.54	2,346.54
Barbara Smith Hospital Fund	592.46		592.46		592.46			592.46	10,260.82	10,853.28
Betty Jane Donley Fund			-		-			-	78,504.17	78,504.17
Total Non-expendable income	3,202.46	-	3,202.46	\$ -	3,202.46	\$ -	\$ -	3,202.46	309,092.70	312,295.16
Martha Dickinson Bianchi Memorial	111.17		111.17		111.17			111.17	900.75	1,011.92
Alice C. Burnham-West Cemetery Gate	1,898.75		1,898.75		1,898.75			1,898.75	17,863.90	19,762.65
Cemetery Perpetual Care	2,484.36		2,484.36		2,484.36			2,484.36	43,026.63	45,510.99
Ephraim Y. Cosby-West Cemetery	60.55		60.55		60.55			60.55	548.80	609.35
Florence B. Cutler-West Cemetery	231.17		231.17		231.17			231.17	2,003.35	2,234.52
S. White Dickinson Cemetery Fund	575.93		575.93		575.93			575.93	4,974.47	5,550.40
George S. Kendrick-West Cemetery	212.49		212.49	1,075.00	(862.51)			(862.51)	1,861.09	998.58
Alfred E. Field, Jr.	4,767.75		4,767.75	5,168.29	(400.54)			(400.54)	763.05	362.51
William E. Smith	111.66		111.66	97.50	14.16			14.16	21.73	35.89
Whiting Street Fund	527.71		527.71	519.50	8.21			8.21	100.30	108.51
Herbert B. Adams	182.32		182.32		182.32			182.32	343.22	525.54
R.J.D. Westcott	187.71		187.71		187.71			187.71	250.99	438.70
E.F. Cook Fountain	\$ 238.47		238.47		238.47			238.47	1,783.51	2,021.98
Betty Jane Donley Fund	4,873.31		4,873.31	1,000.00	3,873.31			3,873.31	6,206.96	10,080.27
Total Expendable income	16,463.35	-	16,463.35	7,860.29	8,603.06	-	-	8,603.06	80,648.75	89,251.81
Total Expendable and Non-expendable Trust Funds	\$ 19,665.81	\$ -	\$ 19,665.81	\$ 7,860.29	\$ 11,805.52	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,805.52	\$ 389,741.45	\$ 401,546.97

TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
FY 2007 Approved Budget
General Fund

OPERATING BUDGETS

General Government:

	FY 07 ATM April-May '06	FY 07 RECAP Adjustments	FY 07 STM Nov '06	FY 07 ATM April-June '07	FY 08 Fin Com July '07	Final Approved Budget
Select Board	\$ 51,955.00					\$ 51,955.00
Town Manager	167,956.00					167,956.00
Finance Committee (Reserve Fund Included)	50,500.00			50,000.00	(66,314.00)	34,186.00
Finance Department	789,543.00	10,000.00				799,543.00
Elections and Registration	65,850.00					65,850.00
Town Clerk's Office	146,450.00					146,450.00
Legal Services	110,568.00					110,568.00
Human Resources/Affirmative Action	212,910.00					212,910.00
Employee Benefits	2,475,861.00			72,800.00	36,029.00	2,584,690.00
Information systems	449,300.00					449,300.00
Facilities Maintenance	408,773.00					408,773.00
General Services	424,726.00					424,726.00
Total General Government	5,354,392.00	10,000.00	-	122,800.00	(30,285.00)	5,456,907.00

Public Safety:

Police	3,874,589.00					3,874,589.00
Police Facility	143,602.00					143,602.00
Fire/Emergency Medical Services	3,393,820.00					3,393,820.00
Communications Center	568,189.00					568,189.00
Animal Control	48,847.00					48,847.00
Total Public Safety	8,029,047.00		-	-	-	8,029,047.00

Public Works:

Public Works Administration	243,463.00					243,463.00
Construction and Maintenance	581,137.00					581,137.00
Snow and Ice Removal	176,540.00					176,540.00
Street and Traffic Lights	105,887.00					105,887.00
Equipment Maintenance	232,689.00					232,689.00
Tree Care and Pest Control	127,935.00					127,935.00
Town Cemeteries	23,193.00					23,193.00
Parks and Commons	246,200.00					246,200.00
Total Public Works	1,737,044.00		-	-	-	1,737,044.00

Planning, Conservation and Inspections:

Inspection Services	385,162.00			(14,800.00)		370,362.00
Conservation Commission and Department	213,897.00					213,897.00
Planning Department	298,988.00			(20,000.00)		278,988.00
Total Planning, Conservation and Inspections	898,047.00		-	(34,800.00)	-	863,247.00

Community Services:

Public Health	300,158.00					300,158.00
Community Services	46,906.00					46,906.00
Public Assistance (Human Services)	140,995.00					140,995.00
Council On Aging	207,831.00					207,831.00
Veterans' Services and Benefits	140,137.00				30,285.00	170,422.00
Town Commemorations	875.00					875.00
Leisure Services and Supplemental Education	631,164.00					631,164.00
Municipal Pools	170,912.00					170,912.00
Cherry Hill Golf	192,385.00					192,385.00
Total Community Services	1,831,363.00	-	-	-	30,285.00	1,861,648.00

Library Services:

Jones Library	1,574,832.00					1,574,832.00
Total Library Services	1,574,832.00	-	-	-	-	1,574,832.00

Public Education:

Elementary Schools	19,264,119.00					19,264,119.00
Regional School District	11,904,067.00					11,904,067.00
Total Public Education	31,168,186.00	-	-	-	-	31,168,186.00

Debt Service:

Debt Principal						-
General	756,422.00					756,422.00
Elementary Schools	265,000.00					265,000.00
Regional Schools	290,204.00					290,204.00
Debt Interest						-
General	126,325.00					126,325.00
Elementary Schools	94,069.00					94,069.00
Regional Schools	186,810.00			(18,000.00)		168,810.00
Temporary Debt/Borrowing Costs	78,743.00			(20,000.00)		58,743.00
Total Debt Service	1,797,573.00	-	-	(38,000.00)	-	1,759,573.00

	FY 07 ATM April-May '06	FY 07 RECAP Adjustments	FY 07 STM Nov '06	FY 07 ATM April-June '07	FY 08 Fin Com July '07	Final Approved Budget
Transfers:						
Art 30 Capital Program -Equipment	801,943.00					801,943.00
Art 15 Capital Program- Facilities	485,000.00					485,000.00
STM Art 3A Health Insurance			166,087.00			166,087.00
Total Transfers	1,286,943.00	-	166,087.00	-	-	1,453,030.00
Unpaid Bills:						
Art 2 unpaid bills ATM (dismissed)						-
Total Unpaid Bills	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assessments:						
State						
Motor Vehicle Parking Surcharge		15,060.00				15,060.00
Retired Teachers Health Insurance		167,801.00				167,801.00
Air Pollution Control Districts		6,429.00				6,429.00
Other						-
Regional Transit Authorities		637,557.00				637,557.00
School Choice Sending Tuition						-
Charter School Assessment						-
SPED						-
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission		5,231.00				5,231.00
Total Assessments	-	832,078.00	-	-	-	832,078.00
Deficits:						
Revenue Deficit						-
Appropriation Deficit						-
Overlay Deficit		25,134.00				25,134.00
Total Deficits	-	25,134.00	-	-	-	25,134.00
<u>SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS</u>						
General Government:						
Retirement Assessment	2,835,526.00					2,835,526.00
Total Gen Gov Special Appropriations	2,835,526.00	-	-	-	-	2,835,526.00
GRAND TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$ 56,512,953.00	\$ 867,212.00	\$ 166,087.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ 57,596,252.00

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Fiscal Year 2007

There were four elections in FY 07: the State Primary held on September 19, 2006; the State Election held on November 2, 2006; the Annual Town Election held on March 27, 2007; and a Special Town "Override" Election, held on May 1, 2007.

Four special town meetings were held, in addition to Annual Town Meeting, which began on May 7, 2007 and ended on June 20, 2007. Town Meeting deliberated on 40 articles and met for twelve sessions.

Complete results of the elections and town meetings are included in this report.

On August 23, 2006, I assumed my position as Town Clerk. I was the Assistant Town Clerk in Amherst before leaving to become the Administrator and the elected Town Clerk for the Town of Pelham. I am very happy to be back in Amherst, where my "Clerking" career began and I am very grateful for the support and the wonderful "welcome home" that I have received from many Amherst residents. And of course it is an honor to work with the wonderful and dedicated staff in the Town Hall. I look forward to carrying on the tradition of Town Clerk and following in the footsteps of my predecessors Cornelia D. Como, Margaret Z. Nartowicz, and Anna M. Maciaszek, all of whom I respected and admired.

On January 2, 2007, the Town Clerk's office began offering Passport Photo services. We had hoped to capture a share of the fees that would be generated as a result of new federal regulations which, when fully implemented, will require passports for travel to destinations where other forms of proof of citizenship had previously sufficed. Our efforts were met with success, with actual receipts for execution fees reaching \$19,440, as well as \$3,030 for photographs.

The Town Clerk's office has begun scanning vital records for archival purposes. It is hoped that this will eventually decrease the number of times original records need to be handled, which is a critical factor in the preservation of records.

The 2007 Annual Street List form was adapted this year to assist dog owners with the renewal of their pet's license. Residents were instructed to complete the form and forward it to the Town Clerk's office along with the appropriate fee and a self-addressed stamped envelope. This change took some of the work of renewing licenses away from the Central Counter and back to the Town Clerk's office, but it was successful in that there were more licenses renewed by the end of the grace period specified in the Town's General Bylaws.

State law requires that veterinarians forward copies of all rabies vaccination certificates issued by them. This year the Town Clerk's office compared this data to the records of licensed dogs. Postcards were mailed to all those individuals who were identified through the rabies vaccination certificates, or who indicated on their census forms that they had a dog for which there was no record of a license being issued.

Another addition to the Annual Street List form made it possible for people who were interested to sign up to serve as poll workers. Many of the people who responded were invited to a training session so they could get a good understanding of what being a poll worker involves, and several worked during the Annual Town Election and the Special Town Election.

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

The Board of Registrars welcomed H. Oldham Brooks, who was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Doris Holden.

Four elections meant four voter registration sessions, which were held 20 days prior to each election. The Town Clerk's office was open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. to facilitate voter registration.

In February of 2007, Secretary of State William F. Galvin approved new accessible equipment to be used in every polling location in Massachusetts. The equipment approved is a ballot-marking device rather than a voting machine. The AutoMARK is designed to assist many voters with disabilities, especially voters who are sight-impaired, in voting independently. This new addition was used for the first time in Amherst at the Annual Town Election and subsequently during the Special Town Election. State-wide response from voters who used the AutoMARK has been very positive. The introduction of the AutoMARK to our polling places has been a rewarding experience for Town Clerk staff and users alike.

Voter totals as of May 1, 2007 were as follows:

Pct.	AI	D	GP	G-R	Int	L	RC	Ref	R	S	U	WF	TOTAL
1		650	1	23		15			89	1	689		1,468
2		847	2	10		5		1	88		522		1,475
3		341		6		1			56		229		633
3A		148		4		4			19		258		433
4	1	351		3		2			46		178		581
4A		208	1	1		6			25		266		507
5	2	706		17		6			98		625		1,454
6		1,065		22	1	12	2		146		834		2,082
7		935		17	1	16		2	113		771		1,855
8		1,328		32		9	1		170	1	900		2,441
9		665		18		6			69	1	450		1,209
9A		280		11		9			43	1	432	1	777
10		375		4		2			26		226		633
10A		172		1		2			23	1	255		454
	3	8,071	4	169	2	95	3	3	1,011	5	6,635	1	16,002

AI = American Independent

G-R = Green Rainbow

RC = Rainbow Coalition

S = Socialist

D = Democrat

Int = Interdependent 3rd party

Ref = Reform

U = Unenrolled

GP = Green Party USA

L = Libertarian

R = Republican

WF = Working Families

2,216 voters were registered and 2,052 were deleted between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra J. Burgess, CMC

Clerk to the Board of Registrars

2007 Vitals
*(The Town Clerk is required to report
to the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics
on a calendar-year basis)*

Births 177

Deaths 140

Marriages 162

**STATE PRIMARY
September 19, 2006**

In accordance with the Warrant, the polls were opened at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m. The voters cast their ballots in their respective precincts. The results were as follows:

	DEMOCRAT														
SENATOR IN CONGRESS	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3A</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4A</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9A</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10A</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
EDWARD M KENNEDY	221	426	185	4	150	9	263	478	394	650	319	18	162	8	3287
BLANKS	17	48	12	2	16	1	40	51	39	65	20	1	20	2	334
All Others	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	8
Total Vote	238	475	197	6	166	10	304	531	434	717	340	19	182	10	3629
GOVERNOR															
CHRISTOPHER GABRIELI	13	43	18	0	16	0	31	43	28	60	29	1	10	2	294
DEVAL L PATRICK	209	401	159	5	144	9	233	441	358	590	292	16	155	8	3020
THOMAS F REILLY	14	31	20	1	6	1	39	44	45	64	18	2	16	0	301
BLANKS	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	1	0	1	0	13
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total Vote	238	475	197	6	166	10	304	531	434	717	340	19	182	10	3629
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR															
DEBORAH B GOLDBERG	74	172	65	4	52	4	98	174	115	230	100	3	61	4	1156
TIMOTHY P MURRAY	57	99	50	1	38	6	74	141	128	180	66	7	39	2	888
ANDREA C SILBERT	50	87	45	0	26	0	67	95	103	138	114	4	35	2	766
BLANKS	57	116	37	1	50	0	64	121	87	169	59	5	47	2	815
All Others	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
Total Vote	238	475	197	6	166	10	304	531	434	717	340	19	182	10	3629

**ATTORNEY
GENERAL**

MARTHA COAKLEY	127	283	125	4	105	9	185	315	277	435	221	12	99	7	2204
BLANKS	109	192	72	2	61	1	116	215	155	280	118	7	82	3	1413
All Others	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	2	1	0	1	0	12
Total Vote	238	475	197	6	166	10	304	531	434	717	340	19	182	10	3629

**SECRETARY OF
STATE**

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3A</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4A</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9A</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10A</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
WILLIAM F GALVIN	79	175	80	2	69	6	143	218	189	282	102	8	47	4	1404
JOHN BONIFAZ	109	197	82	4	56	2	95	206	156	284	180	6	109	3	1489
BLANKS	50	102	35	0	41	2	64	107	88	150	58	5	26	2	730
All Others	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	6
Total Vote	238	475	197	6	166	10	304	531	434	717	340	19	182	10	3629

TREASURER

TIMOTHY P CAHILL	133	279	126	4	97	9	197	320	272	421	225	12	97	7	2199
BLANKS	105	196	70	2	69	1	105	211	161	295	115	7	85	3	1425
All Others	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
Total Vote	238	475	197	6	166	10	304	531	434	717	340	19	182	10	3629

AUDITOR

A JOSEPH DeNUCCI	123	261	116	4	91	8	183	290	249	383	198	11	92	7	2016
RAND WILSON *	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
BLANKS	113	214	79	2	75	2	119	240	184	334	142	8	90	3	1605
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total Vote	238	475	197	6	166	10	304	531	434	717	340	19	182	10	3629

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

JOHN W OLVER	196	403	164	3	149	8	248	456	371	618	307	13	157	9	3102
BLANKS	40	72	31	2	17	2	55	73	62	97	33	6	24	1	515
All Others	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	12
Total Vote	238	475	197	6	166	10	304	531	434	717	340	19	182	10	3629

COUNCILLOR	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3A</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4A</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9A</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10A</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
PETER VICKERY	158	297	139	3	99	6	192	331	273	414	239	10	118	6	2285
R DEL GALLO, III	3	7	0	2	1	2	3	7	4	9	2	0	2	1	43
THOMAS T MERRIGAN	39	111	35	0	38	1	62	111	100	189	70	2	42	1	801
BLANKS	38	60	23	1	28	1	46	82	57	105	29	7	20	2	499
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total Vote	238	475	197	6	166	10	304	531	434	717	340	19	182	10	3629

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

STANLEY C	209	423	180	4	149	8	252	472	384	638	316	13	155	8	3211
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ROSENBERG

BLANKS	29	51	16	2	17	2	51	59	50	78	24	6	27	2	414
All Others	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Total Vote	238	475	197	6	166	10	304	531	434	717	340	19	182	10	3629

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL

COURT

ELLEN STORY	209	422	177	5	153	9	250	469	383	625	321	14	163	9	3209
BLANKS	29	53	20	1	13	1	53	61	51	91	19	5	19	1	417
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Total Vote	238	475	197	6	166	10	304	531	434	717	340	19	182	10	3629

DISTRICT

ATTORNEY

ELIZABETH SCHEIBEL *	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	6
BLANKS	230	467	192	5	163	9	285	516	417	700	331	18	178	10	3521
All Others	6	8	5	1	3	1	19	15	16	15	9	1	3	0	102
Total Vote	238	475	197	6	166	10	304	531	434	717	340	19	182	10	3629

CLERK OF COURTS

HARRY JEKANOWSKI, JR	129	268	117	4	90	7	185	293	247	395	212	10	93	5	2055
BLANKS	109	207	80	2	76	3	118	237	186	321	127	9	89	5	1569
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	5
Total Vote	238	475	197	6	166	10	304	531	434	717	340	19	182	10	3629

REGISTER OF DEEDS

MARIANNE L DONOHUE	131	269	119	4	94	7	189	313	258	411	221	11	95	5	2127
BLANKS	106	205	77	2	72	3	113	218	176	306	119	8	87	5	1497
All Others	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Total Vote	238	475	197	6	166	10	304	531	434	717	340	19	182	10	3629

REPUBLICAN

SENATOR IN CONGRESS

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3A</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4A</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9A</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10A</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
KENNETH G CHASE	1	3	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	4	3	0	0	0	17
KEVIN P SCOTT	2	4	5	0	2	0	3	7	2	6	7	0	2	1	41
BLANKS	0	1	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	13
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Vote	3	8	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	1	71

GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY	3	7	8	0	2	0	6	5	2	13	9	0	2	1	58
BLANKS	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	11
All Others	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2

Total Vote	3	8	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	1	71
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**LIEUTENANT
GOVERNOR**

REED V HILLMAN	3	7	6	0	2	0	6	4	2	11	10	0	2	1	54
BLANKS	0	1	3	0	1	0	1	6	0	3	1	0	0	0	16
All Others	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total Vote	3	8	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	1	71

**ATTORNEY
GENERAL**

LARRY FRISOLI	3	6	5	0	2	0	4	4	2	9	8	0	2	1	46
BLANKS	0	2	5	0	1	0	3	6	0	5	3	0	0	0	25
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Vote	3	8	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	1	71

SECRETARY OF STATE	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3A</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4A</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9A</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10A</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
BLANKS	3	8	9	0	3	0	6	10	2	13	10	0	2	1	67
All Others	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	4
Total Vote	3	8	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	1	71

TREASURER

BLANKS	3	8	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	13	10	0	2	1	69
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Total Vote	3	8	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	1	71

AUDITOR

BLANKS	3	8	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	1	71
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Vote	3	8	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	1	71

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

BLANKS	3	7	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	0	69
All Others	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Total Vote	3	8	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	1	71

COUNCILLOR

MICHAEL FRANCO	2	7	5	0	2	0	3	3	2	7	5	0	2	1	39
BLANKS	1	1	5	0	1	0	4	7	0	7	6	0	0	0	32
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Vote	3	8	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	1	71

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

MICHAELA L LeBLANC	2	6	5	0	2	0	4	6	2	10	5	0	2	1	45
BLANKS	1	2	5	0	1	0	3	4	0	4	6	0	0	0	26
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Vote	3	8	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	1	71

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

BLANKS	3	7	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	1	70
All Others	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total Vote	3	8	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	1	71

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ELIZABETH D SCHEIBEL	3	6	7	0	1	0	5	7	2	12	9	0	2	1	55
BLANKS	0	2	3	0	2	0	2	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	16
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Vote	3	8	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	1	71

CLERK OF COURTS

BLANKS	2	8	10	0	2	0	7	10	2	14	10	0	2	1	68
All Others	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Total Vote	3	8	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	1	71

REGISTER OF DEEDS

BLANKS	3	8	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	1	71
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Vote	3	8	10	0	3	0	7	10	2	14	11	0	2	1	71

**Indicates Write-in candidate*

Pct.	Democratic Ballots Cast	Democrats Registered	Republican Ballots Cast	Republicans Registered	Unenrolled Voters	P.M. Return	% Voting
1	238	625	3	85	726	9:24	16.23
2	475	842	8	91	525	9:34	32.7
3	197	342	10	58	236	10:40	32.14
3A	6	121	0	11	217	9:24	1.69
4	166	348	3	46	174	10:15	29.39
4A	10	174	0	28	225	9:30	2.28
5	304	728	7	102	637	10:15	20.8
6	531	1,055	10	156	824	10:07	26.07
7	434	923	2	124	780	10:40	23.38
8	717	1,302	14	181	879	10:00	30.36
9	340	680	11	73	476	10:03	27.9

9A	19	232	0	37	419	9:30	2.66
10	182	402	2	27	251	9:24	26.71
10A	10	149	1	29	204	9:28	2.83
Total	3,629	7,923	71	1,048	6,573		23.31%

The polls were closed at 8:00 p.m. as directed in the Warrant. 3,700 ballots were cast, representing 23.31% of the 15,870 voters registered.

Attest:

Sandra J. Burgess

Town Clerk

* * *

**Special Town Meeting
October 30, November 1, 8, and 13, 2006**

The meeting was televised by Amherst Community Television and shown on the Government Channel.

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Harrison Gregg at 7:43 p.m. There were 242 town meeting members. 122 checked in and a quorum was declared. The call and the return of the warrant were read by the Town Clerk, Sandra J. Burgess.

Anne Awad, Select Board chair recognized citizens who had completed service of at least two full, three-year terms. Those recognized were Mark Power, who served on the Amherst Farm Committee from 2000 – 2006; Robert Grose who served on the Comprehensive Planning Committee from 1997 – 2006; Barbara Mitchell for her service on the Conservation Commission from 2000 – 2006; David Henion for his service on the Design Review Board from 2000 – 2006; Michael Mascis who served on the Finance Committee from 2000 – 2006; Mary Jane Laus who served on the Human Services Funding Committee from 1998 - 2006; and Florence Boynton and Nancy Pagano for their service on the Kanegasaki Sister City Committee from 2000 – 2006.

Also recognized were Mary Santiago who served on the La Paz Centro, Nicaragua Sister City Committee and Kathleen Ford who served on the Leisure Services & Supplemental Education Commission from 2000 - 2006; Adrian Fabos for his service on the Planning Board and Carol Lee for her service on the Public Art Commission both of whom served from 2000 – 2006. Van Kaynor was recognized for his service between 2000 and 2006 on the Public Transportation Committee, along with Doris Holden who served on the Board of Registrars and Zina Tillona who served on the Zoning Board of Appeals from 1998 – 2006; and Jim Ellis was recognized for his service on the Public Shade Tree Committee from 1999 – 2006.

Moderator, Harrison Gregg introduced the new Town Manager, Larry Shaffer. Mr. Shaffer recognized the Fire and Police Departments and commended them on their heroic actions and interdepartmental cooperation during the Echo Hill incident. Mr. Shaffer also recognized Nancy Pagano for her efforts in devising an emergency plan for senior transportation.

Town Meeting voted unanimously to consider Article 6 at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 8.
Town Meeting voted to consider Article 13 at 7:40 p.m. on Wednesday, November 1.

ARTICLE 1. Reports of Boards and Committees (Select Board)

VOTED to hear those reports of Town officers, the Finance Committee, and any other Town boards or committees which are not available in written form.

Action taken on 10/30/2006.

[Reports were heard from the Amherst Energy Conservation Task Force and Public Transportation Committee]

ARTICLE 2. Transfer of Funds – Unpaid Bills (Select Board)

DISMISSED [To see if the Town will, in accordance with Chapter 44, section 64, of the Massachusetts General Laws, appropriate and transfer a sum of money to pay unpaid bills of previous years.]

Action taken on 10/30/2006.

ARTICLE 3. FY 07 Operating Budget Amendments (Finance Committee)

A: VOTED unanimously to amend the action taken under Article 26 of the 2006 Annual Town Meeting – Fiscal Year 2007 Operating Budget, by appropriating to the Health Claims Trust Fund

\$166,087 for employee health insurance and to meet such appropriation transfer \$166,087 from Free Cash in the Undesignated Fund Balance of the General Fund, said appropriation to be reimbursed to the General Fund via a temporary health insurance premium surcharge to employers and employees until such time as the total appropriation has been reimbursed.

B: **VOTED** to amend the action taken under Article 26 of the 2006 Annual Town Meeting – Fiscal Year 2007 Operating Budget, by appropriating to the Sewer Fund \$85,853 to eliminate a revenue deficit as of June 30, 2006, and that to meet such appropriation \$85,853 be transferred from Sewer Fund Surplus.

C: **VOTED** to amend the action taken under Article 26 of the 2006 Annual Town Meeting – Fiscal Year 2007 Operating Budget, by appropriating to the Golf Course Fund \$10,742.69 to eliminate a revenue deficit as of June 30, 2006, and that to meet such appropriation \$10,742.69 be transferred from Golf Course Fund Surplus.

[A motion was made to reduce the amount of the appropriation to \$10,740.69. In accordance with the Rules of Order for Town Meeting, the motion with the largest sum was voted first.]

Action taken on 10/30/2006

ARTICLE 4. Golf Course Fund (Finance Committee)

VOTED to dissolve the Golf Course Enterprise Fund in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53F1/2 effective December 1, 2006, and transfer remaining fund balance and fixed assets to the General Fund.

Action taken on 10/30/2006.

ARTICLE 5. Debt Rescissions (Finance Committee)

VOTED unanimously to rescind the following borrowing authorizations:

Special Town Meeting, October 1984, Article 15 - \$298,000 for Parking Lot

Special Town Meeting, May 2001, Article 1 - \$3,603 for Crocker Farm School Project

Special Town Meeting, January 2003, Article 1 - \$400,000 for Chapel Road/Mechanic Street Sewer Extension.

Action taken on 10/30/2006.

ARTICLE 6. 575 North East Street (Historical Commission/Conservation Commission)

VOTED YES 102, NO 32, to authorize the Select Board to enter into a Compensation Agreement and a Mitigation Agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, on terms and conditions as the Select Board may deem reasonable, which Compensation Agreement shall include a provision in which the town pledges its full faith and credit as security for the payment of the remaining \$128,000 due under such Agreement, and which Mitigation Agreement shall include a provision in which the town agrees to the payment of \$100,000 in monetary contributions, APR conveyances, or a combination thereof, all as required pursuant to pending special legislation entitled “An Act Releasing Certain Land in Amherst From the Operation of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction.”

Action taken 11/8/2006.

ARTICLE 7. Memorandum of Understanding for Emergency Management (Board of Health)

VOTED unanimously that the Town of Amherst, in accordance with M.G.L. c40 s 4A, authorize the Amherst Select Board and the Board of Health to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with one or more other governmental units to provide public health, public works, and general government administration services which the Board of Health, Department of Public Works, and other

administrative bodies in town are authorized to perform, in accordance with an Intermunicipal Mutual Aid Agreement to be entered between the Town and various governmental units.
Action taken on 10/30/2006.

ARTICLE 8. Petition – Outreach Bus Service (Ver Eecke)

VOTED to continue, and, if financially and otherwise feasible, improve outreach bus service to Echo Hill and East Amherst.

Action taken on 10/30/2006.

ARTICLE 9. Disposition of Olympia Drive (Select Board)

VOTED by a declared 2/3 vote to a) transfer the care and custody of two certain parcels of land located on Olympia Drive, containing 6.29 acres of land and 7.21 acres, more or less, respectively, being a portion of the land shown as Parcel 20 on Assessors Map 8D, and more particularly shown as Parcels 1 and 2 on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Amherst, Massachusetts Prepared for the Inhabitants of the Town of Amherst,” dated July 11, 2006, by Berkshire Design Group, Inc., from the Select Board as general municipal property to the Select Board for the purpose conveying said parcels, and b) authorize the Select Board to convey such parcels for the purpose of construction of affordable housing on Parcel 1 and for open space supporting such construction on Parcel 2, which conveyance shall be in accordance with all applicable bidding statutes and on such terms and conditions as the Select Board may deem reasonable.

Action taken on 10/30/2006.

At 10:06 p.m. the meeting voted to adjourn to Wednesday, November 1, 2006 at 7:40 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 169 Town Meeting members were checked in.

The November 1, 2006 session, adjourned from October 30, 2006 was called to order by Moderator, Harrison Gregg at 10:05 p.m. 122 Town Meeting Members were checked in.

The meeting voted to adjourn to Wednesday, November 8, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 145 Town Meeting Members were checked in.

The November 8, 2006 session, adjourned from November 1, 2006 was called to order by Moderator, Harrison Gregg at 7:43 p.m. There were 241 Town Meeting Members. 121 Town Meeting Members were checked in and a quorum was declared.

Town Meeting voted unanimously to hear Article 6 and proceed with the remaining articles in their original numerical order.

ARTICLE 10. Creation of an Agricultural Commission (Farm Committee)

VOTED as amended to establish an Agricultural Commission to represent the Amherst farming and agricultural community, as well as other farming and forestry activities. As of January 1, 2007, the Agricultural Commission will replace the Farm Committee previously established by the Select Board.

The purpose of the Agricultural Commission will be to support commercial agriculture and other farming activities in the Town of Amherst. The Commission’s duties shall include but will not be limited to the following: promoting agricultural-based economic opportunities in Town; acting as mediators, advocates, educators, and/or negotiators on farming issues; working for the preservation of agricultural lands; advising Town Meeting, Select Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals,

Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Historical Commission, Board of Assessors, and the Open Space Committee, or any other appropriate Town Boards and Committees, on issues involving agriculture; pursuing all initiatives appropriate to creating a sustainable agricultural community in the Town of Amherst; and, reviewing and advising on development proposed in farmland areas, as may be permitted under zoning and other development regulations.

The Commission shall consist of nine voting members appointed by the Select Board, a majority of whom shall be substantially engaged in the pursuit of agriculture, and one non-voting representative of the Planning Board, nominated by the Planning Board and appointed by the Select Board. All members of the Commission must either be residents of the town, or owners and farmers of agricultural property or agricultural enterprises within the town. The Director of Conservation and Planning shall serve as a non-voting staff liaison to the Agricultural Commission.

The term of appointment shall be for 3 years staggered so that three new members are appointed each year. Initially, three members shall be appointed for a term of three years; three members shall be appointed for a term of two years; and three members shall be appointed for a term of one year. At the time of passage of this article, current members of the Amherst Farm Committee- who meet the Commission's membership criteria, shall continue to serve out their current terms as Commission members. Reappointments shall be consistent with Town Policy.

Action taken 11/8/2006

ARTICLE 11. Zoning Map – Main & High Street (R-G and/or COM to B-VC) (Planning Board)
VOTED unanimously to refer to the Planning Board *[To see if the town will amend the Official Zoning Map changing the zoning designation on properties on Main and High Streets, as follows:*

- A. *Rezone the property at 446 Main Street (Assessors Map 14B, Parcel 66) from General Residence (R-G) to Village Center Business (B-VC).*
- B. *Rezone the following properties or portions of properties from General Residence (R-G) to Village Center Business (B-VC):*
 - 1. *462 Main Street (Map 14B, Parcel 68)*
 - 2. *A northerly portion of the property at 457 Main Street (Map 14B, Parcel 131) totaling 17,741 sq. ft. in area, more or less.*
 - 3. *A northerly portion of the property at 319-321 Main Street (Map 14B, Parcel 28) totaling 21,774 sq. ft. in area, more or less.*
- C. *Rezone the following properties on Main and High Streets from Commercial (COM), or from Commercial (COM) and General Residence (R-G), to Village Center Business (B-VC):*
 - 1. *502 Main Street (Map 14B, Parcel 130)*
 - 2. *534 Main Street (Map 14B, Parcel 128)*
 - 3. *13 High Street (Map 14B, Parcel 129)*
 - 4. *High Street (Map 14B, Parcel 234)]*

Action taken 11/8/2006.

ARTICLE 12. Zoning Bylaw - Farmland Conservation (FC) Development Standards (Planning Board)
VOTED unanimously to refer to the Planning Board. *[To see if the town will amend Sections 3.2832, Section 3.285, Farmland Conservation Development Standards, Section 6.3, Section 10.323, and Section 11.230, by deleting the ~~lined out~~ language and adding the language in **bold italics**, as follows:*

- A. *Amend Section 3.2832, as follows:*

3.2832 *For flag lots with frontage located outside the FC District and a majority of lot area within the FC District, the lot area requirements for these lots are as follows:*

*Minimum lot area 20,000 sq.ft.
Maximum lot area 30,000 sq.ft.*

The minimum front, side and rear yard setbacks for buildings containing dwelling units on such flag lots shall be forty (40) feet. All other dimensional requirements for ~~these~~ flag lots in the FC District shall be the same as those specified in Table 3 or Section 4.332 for ~~Cluster Development~~ flag lots in the R-N District, as applicable.

B. Add new Section 3.2833, as follows:

3.2833 *Flag lots with a majority of lot area within the FC District that are not part of a cluster subdivision, Open Space Community Development (OSCD), or Planned Unit Residential Developments (PURDs) shall only be developed for one family detached dwellings, supplemental apartments (Section 5.011), and converted dwellings (Section 3.3241), as dimensional requirements shall allow.*

C. Add the following new language after the heading and before Section 3.2580:

3.285 *Farmland Conservation Development Standards*

The development standards in this section shall apply to cluster developments, Open Space Community Developments (OSCDs), and Planned Unit Residential Developments (PURDs) proposed within the Farmland Conservation (FC) overlay district. The development standards established under Sections 3.2857-3.2859, inclusive, shall also be applied to flag lots with frontage located outside the FC District and a majority of lot area within the FC District.

D. Amend Sections 3.2851, 3.2852, 3.2855 and 3.2856, as follows:

3.2851 *Individual or multi-unit community septic systems may be allowed in cluster developments, **OSCDs, or PURDs** in the FC District where public sanitary service is not reasonably available, subject to Board of Health approval, conditions and restrictions.*

3.2852 *Within the common land provided in ~~the a~~ ~~Cluster Development~~, a maximum of 5,000 square feet per dwelling unit shall be set aside as usable open space for active and passive recreation. **For an OSCD or PURD, the common land requirements shall be as provided under Section 4.4127 or Section 4.570, as applicable.***

*Upon request of the applicant, the ~~Planning Board~~ **Permit Granting Board or Special Permit Granting Authority, as applicable**, may waive this maximum, where such a change would be consistent with the purposes of this Bylaw. In making their decision, the ~~Planning Board~~ **Permit Granting Board or Special Permit Granting Authority** shall consider whether the maximum feasible amount of common land has been set aside as permanently preserved farmland, while maintaining adequate amounts of usable open space for active and passive recreation for the Cluster Development.*

3.2855 No building containing dwelling units **in a cluster development, OSCD or PURD** shall intrude into a minimum 150 foot buffer strip separating residential uses from adjacent or on-site farmland. Said buffer strip may include private property and Common Land. The permit granting board or authority may reduce this distance requirement where screening, substantial vegetation, land contour or other features of the site are deemed to provide sufficient buffering, and where such a change is consistent with the purposes of this Bylaw. An exception to this distance requirement shall be permitted for no more than one (1) dwelling unit associated with the management and operation of agricultural uses of the farmland. Said dwelling unit shall be included in the maximum number of lots provided for under Section 4.327.

3.2856 The permit granting board or authority may approve the use of portions of the 150 foot buffer strip between the residential and farmland portions of a cluster development, **OSCD, or PURD**, as usable open space for the recreational use of ~~cluster~~ development residents, provided the board or authority determines such use will not impact adversely on adjacent farming activity and is consistent with Section 4.31 of the Zoning Bylaw.

3.2857 Every reasonable effort shall be made **in the siting and design of dwelling units and structures** to maintain views of open agricultural lands from nearby public ways.

3.2858 Each dwelling unit and structure shall be integrated into the existing landscape through use of building placement, landform treatment and screening.

3.2859 Applicants are encouraged to site dwelling units and other structures:

1. Within any woodland contained on the parcel;
2. Into woodlands along the edges of fields;
3. In locations where new construction can be visually screened or absorbed into natural vegetative or topographic features;
4. In locations where the greatest number of units can take advantage of solar heating, summer breezes, vegetative wind screens, and other climatic site characteristics that can be utilized through siting and design.

E. Add a new Section 6.39, as follows:

6.39 Flag lots with frontage located outside the FC District and a majority of lot area within the FC District shall be governed by the dimensional regulations established under Section 3.2832.

F. Amend Section 10.323, as follows:

10.323 Upon receipt of an application for a Special Permit, the Special Permit Granting Authority shall transmit copies of the application and plans to appropriate Town boards and officials which may include: the Building Commissioner, Planning Director, Town Engineer, Fire Chief, Conservation Director, Board of Health, Historical Commission, Public Transportation Committee, **Farm Committee/Agricultural Commission**, and others as necessary. These boards and officials shall have thirty-five (35) days to report to the Special Permit Granting Authority their findings and recommendations. Failure to report in the allotted time shall constitute approval by that board or official of the application submitted.

G. Amend Section 11.230, as follows:

*11.230 The Planning Board shall transmit copies of the application and site plan to appropriate Town ~~B~~boards and departments which may include: the Town Engineer, Fire Chief, Conservation Department, Building Commissioner, Board of Health, Historical Commission, Public Transportation Committee, **Farm Committee/Agricultural Commission**, and others as necessary. These ~~B~~boards and departments shall have thirty-five (35) days to report to the Planning Board their findings and recommendations. Failure to report in the allotted time shall constitute approval by that ~~B~~board or ~~D~~department of the application submitted.]*

Action taken 11/8/2006.

ARTICLE 13. Zoning Bylaw - Wetlands District (WD) Removal (Planning Board)

VOTED as amended by the required 2/3 vote: Yes, 107; No, 23 (Tally Vote) to amend the Zoning Bylaw and the Official Zoning Map as follows:

- A. Delete Section 3.26, Wetlands District (WD), and all other references to the Wetlands District (WD) throughout the Zoning Bylaw, renumber ensuing sections accordingly, and amend the following sections by deleting the ~~lined-out~~ language and adding the language in ***bold italics***, as follows:

1) Delete the reference to SECTION 3.26, Wetlands District, in the Table of Contents.

2) Under Section 2.05, Resource Protection Districts, delete the following:

~~WD—Wetlands District~~

~~The WD District is an overlay district consisting of lands defined as wetlands by the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40.~~

3) Delete Section 3.26, Wetlands District, and all of its subsections, and replace it with the following:

3.26 [RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE]

- B. Add the following new definition to Article 12 of the Zoning Bylaw, and renumbering the remaining existing sections accordingly:

12.40 *Wetlands: Those lands defined as wetlands by the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, as amended, and by the provisions of the General Bylaws of the Town of Amherst Massachusetts, Article II, General Regulations, Wetlands Protection, as amended.*

- C. Amend the Official Zoning Map by removing the Wetlands District (WD) wherever it appears.
[Motion to refer article back to the Planning Board was DEFEATED]

Action taken 11/8/2006.

At 10:02 p.m. the meeting voted to adjourn to Monday, November 13, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 145 Town Meeting Members were checked in.

The November 13, 2006 session, adjourned from November 8, 2006 was called to order by Moderator, Harrison Gregg at 7:42 p.m. There were 240 Town Meeting Members. 121 Town Meeting Members were checked in and a quorum was declared.

ARTICLE 14. Land Acquisition - Easement - Parking Garage (Select Board)

VOTED unanimously to dismiss. *[To see if the town will a) authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase, eminent domain or otherwise, an easement in, on and over a certain area of land of Tso-Chen and Rose C. Chang located on the northerly portion of 60 Main Street, being a portion of Parcel 59 on Assessors Map 14A, for the purpose of placing and maintaining thereon improvements associated with the construction of the Boltwood Parking Garage; b) appropriate a sum of money for such acquisition, and; c) determine a source of funds for such appropriation.]*

Action taken on 11/13/2006

ARTICLE 15. Fire Station Study Committee (Fire Station Study Committee)

a) **VOTED unanimously as amended** to receive the report from Caolo and Bieniek Associates, Inc. as commissioned by the Town of Amherst under the direction of the Town Manager and the Fire Station Study Committee

(b) **VOTED** to ask that the Town Manager develop long-range plans for financing both the three-station concept and the two-station concept for possible incorporation into municipal and capital budget planning.

Action taken on 11/13/2006

[Motion to amend DEFEATED: "to ask that the Town Manager develop a long-range plan for financing the three-station concept for possible incorporation into municipal and capital budget planning."]

ARTICLE 16. Bylaw – Lock Boxes (Select Board)

VOTED unanimously as amended to adopt the following bylaw:

AMHERST FIRE DEPARTMENT
Emergency Access Bylaw

1. Name of Bylaw and Authority

1.1. This bylaw shall be known as the Emergency Access Bylaw. It is enacted pursuant to the police powers of the town of Amherst in order to increase the safety and security of the inhabitants of the town and their property by lessening the response time to alarms in buildings with supervised fire protection systems.

2. Prohibition

2.1. No person shall install or maintain on any new or renovated building a supervised fire protection system unless such system is in full compliance with this bylaw or an exception has been obtained in accordance with this bylaw.

3. Installation

3.1. A key vault to provide emergency access for Fire Department units shall be installed on any building, (except single family dwellings) provided with supervised fire protection systems.

- 3.1.1. The Fire Chief or his designee may grant an exception if the facility has on duty security or staff and the Fire Chief or his designee, in his sole discretion, is satisfied that such security or staff is able to arrive at the building with access keys in less than five minutes.
 - 3.1.2. The Fire Chief or his designee may approve an alternate entry method of emergency access. An application describing the alternative method shall be made to the Fire Chief who may grant an exception if he is satisfied, in his sole discretion, that the alternative entry method provides an equivalent fire response time as contemplated under this bylaw.
 - 3.2. The type and style of key vault shall be approved by the Fire Chief or his designee.
 - 3.3. The key vault shall be installed at the front door or other Fire Department approved access point into the building.
 - 3.4. The location of the key vault shall be approved by the Fire Department.
 - 3.5. Keys or access codes shall be secured in the key vault including keys or codes for all outside doors, for interior doors and mechanical rooms and fire alarm control panels. Owner and occupant identification and 24-hour contact information shall be maintained in the key box.
4. Operation
 - 4.1. The Fire Department may use the keys secured in the key vault to gain access to the protected property for any emergency response.
 - 4.2. The Fire Department shall notify the owner or tenant each time the keys secured in the key vault are used.
 - 4.3. The owner shall file with the Dispatch Center a list of persons who will respond to the building within 15 minutes whenever a fire alarm is activated.
 - 4.4. The owner, tenant or designated person shall respond to restore fire protection systems to service and to secure the building.
 - 4.5. The owner shall ensure the keys are secured in the key vault after termination of the incident.
5. Maintenance
 - 5.1. The keys, codes, identification, and contact information secured in the key vault shall be updated upon change of owner or tenant or upon change of locks, codes, or contacts.
 - 5.2. Annual inspection and maintenance
 - 5.2.1. The keys secured in the key vault shall be removed annually and tested for proper operation.
 - 5.2.2. Contact information for the owner and occupants shall be updated annually.
 - 5.2.3. The key box lock shall be cleaned and lubricated annually.
 - 5.2.4. The owner shall contact the Fire Department and make an appointment for annual inspection and maintenance of the key vault
 - 5.2.5. The owner shall make such repairs and replace the lock box or any portion thereof as may be ordered by the Fire Chief or his designee.

Action taken on 11/13/2006.

ARTICLE 17. Bylaw – Open Burning (Select Board)
VOTED Yes 93; No 30 to adopt the following bylaw:

OPEN BURNING BYLAW

SECTION 1 PURPOSE

This by-law, which regulates open burning within the Town of Amherst, is enacted pursuant to the general police power in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the town.

SECTION 2 PROHIBITION

No person shall set, maintain or increase a fire in the open at any time, except pursuant to a permit issued under Mass. Gen. Laws, Ch. 148, sec. 13, and in full compliance with the provisions of 310 CMR 7.07.

SECTION 3 ENFORCEMENT

This by-law shall be enforced by criminal complaint in the District Court. In the alternative, it may be enforced by the non-criminal disposition process as set forth in Mass. Gen. Laws, Ch. 40, sec. 21D. For the purpose of non-criminal disposition, the enforcing persons shall be full time fire fighters of the Amherst Fire Department, police officers and the building commissioner.

SECTION 4 PENALTY

Whoever violates any provision of section 2 shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$300 plus the cost of suppression or by imprisonment for not more than one month or both. For the purpose of non-criminal disposition, the fine shall be \$300 for each offense.

SECTION 5 RESPONSIBILITY

If the person or persons responsible for an activity which violates Section 2 cannot be determined, the person in lawful custody and/or control of the premises, including but not limited to the owner, lessee or occupant of the property on which the activity is located, shall be deemed responsible for the violation.

SECTION 6 SEVERABILITY

If any section, paragraph or provision of this by-law is held to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this by-law, which shall remain in full force or effect.

Action taken on 11/13/2006.

ARTICLE 18. Easements - Pulpit Hill Road (Select Board)

VOTED to authorize the Select Board to convey an easement to Verizon New England, Inc. and Western Massachusetts Electric Company over land located at 531 Pulpit Hill Road, which property is commonly known as "Ruxton," for the purpose of placing and maintaining underground telecommunications and electrical lines and related equipment to provide utility service to the wireless communications facility to be located thereon pursuant to a Lease Agreement with Bell Atlantic Mobile of Massachusetts Corporation Ltd d/b/a Verizon Wireless as authorized under Article 16 of the Annual Town Meeting held on May 2, 2005.

Action taken on 11/13/2006.

The business of the warrant having been completed, the meeting voted to dissolve at 9:11 p.m. on Monday, November 13, 2006. 140 town meeting members were checked in.

Attest:

Sandra J. Burgess
Town Clerk

* * *

**Special Town Meeting
November 1, 2006**

The meeting was televised by Amherst Community Television and shown on the Government Channel.

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Harrison Gregg at 7:43 p.m. There were 242 town meeting members. 122 checked in and a quorum was declared. The call and the return of the warrant were read by the Town Clerk, Sandra J. Burgess.

Town Meeting voted to take up the articles of this meeting in the following order: 1, 4, 3, 2.

ARTICLE 1. Resolution – Stop Genocide in Darfur Region of Sudan (Spiegelman)

VOTED to adopt the following resolution:

TO STOP THE GENOCIDE IN THE DARFUR REGION OF SUDAN,

Be it Resolved, that Amherst Town Meeting urges the President and Congress the United States to take immediate action to apply pressure to the government of Sudan to end the genocide in the Darfur region;

that Amherst Town Meeting urges the President and Congress to press for immediate deployment of the already-authorized UN peacekeeping force; and for strengthening the understaffed and under-equipped African Union force already in Darfur until the UN peacekeeping force is deployed; and for increasing humanitarian aid and ensuring access for delivery;

that Amherst Town Meeting urges the Massachusetts Legislature to enact a Bill, which, like Senate Bill 2659, would divest the Commonwealth's investment funds from targeted companies doing business with the government of Sudan in such a way as to support or passively enable the Darfur genocide;

that copies of this resolution be distributed to the President, members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation, other members of Congress in positions of leadership of the House and Senate and committees with jurisdiction over foreign policy and commerce, the Governor of Massachusetts and members of Amherst's delegation to the state legislature, and other leaders of the state legislature as deemed appropriate; and

that this resolution be posted on the official Town of Amherst website.

Action taken on November 1, 2006.

[Motion to dismiss was defeated Yes, 53; No 83 (Tally Vote)]

ARTICLE 2. Resolution – Impeach President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard B. Cheney (Gray)

VOTED as amended; Yes 85, No 29 (Tally Vote) to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION TO IMPEACH PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
AND VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD B. CHENEY**

WHEREAS, George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney have committed acts which many serious Constitutional scholars consider to be impeachable offenses, including the following:

- 1) George W. Bush ordered the National Security Agency to conduct electronic surveillance of U.S. citizens without seeking warrants from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Court, duly constituted by Congress in 1978 for the purpose of approving such warrants, thus violating Title 50 United States Code, Section 1805;
- 2) George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney conspired to commit the torture of prisoners in violation of the "Federal Torture Act" Title 18 United States Code, Section 113C, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Geneva Convention, which under Article VI of the Constitution are part of the "supreme Law of the Land";
- 3) George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney conspired with others to defraud the United States by intentionally misleading Congress and the public regarding the threat from Iraq in order to justify invading and attacking that country in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 371 and the United Nations Charter;
- 4) George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney attempted to strip U.S. citizens of their constitutional rights by ordering their indefinite detention without access to legal counsel, without charge and without the opportunity to appear before a civil judicial officer to challenge their detention, based solely on President's designation of U.S. citizens as "enemy combatants", all in subversion of law;
- 5) As part of the continuing war in Iraq, George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney have violated the constitutional and international human rights of non-citizens by arbitrarily detaining hundreds of persons at Guantanamo Bay and other locations for more than four years without due process, without charges, and with limited – if any – access to counsel or courts;
- 6) George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney have arrogated excessive power to the executive branch in violation of basic constitutional principles of the separation of powers while acting to undermine the authority of the legislative branch and the judiciary by issuing "signing statements" that claim that the executive branch may disregard laws enacted by Congress when the President or his subordinates deem it appropriate, and by the above referenced conduct; and,

WHEREAS, Petitions from the country at large may be presented by the Speaker of the House according to Clause 3 of House Rule XII;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney, by such conduct, warrant impeachment, trial, removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the representative Town Meeting of the Town of Amherst, that our senators and representatives in the United States Congress be, and they are hereby, requested to cause to be instituted in the Congress of the United States proper proceedings for the investigation of the activities of the George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney, to the end that they may both be impeached and removed from such office;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Amherst Town Clerk be, and is hereby, instructed to certify and transmit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, under the seal of the Town of Amherst, a copy of this resolution and its adoption by the Town of Amherst, as a petition, and request that this petition be delivered to the Office of the Clerk and entered in the United States Congressional Journal. Action taken November 1, 2006.

[Motion to dismiss was defeated]

ARTICLE 3. Resolution – Urging Direct U.S. Diplomacy with Iran and Urging Against Any U.S. Military Action Toward Iran (Gray)

VOTED as amended to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION URGING DIRECT U.S. DIPLOMACY WITH IRAN
AND URGING AGAINST ANY U.S. MILITARY ACTION TOWARD IRAN**

WHEREAS, plans for a major U.S. bombing campaign against Iran have already been drawn up by the U.S. Strategic Command under the Bush Administration’s direction; and,

WHEREAS, active duty and retired generals and admirals have told the Administration that a bombing campaign against Iran will probably not succeed in destroying Iran's nuclear program, but such an attack could lead to serious economic, political, and military consequences for the United States; and,

WHEREAS, another U.S. attack on an Islamic Middle East country would likely have a devastating and inflammatory effect on relations between the U.S. and the Middle East as a whole; and,

WHEREAS, a U.S. bombing campaign against Iran would likely result in the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians; and,

WHEREAS, the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, signed by Iran, provides all states with the right to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes; and,

WHEREAS according to comments on March 6, 2006 by Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mohamed ElBaradei, Iran does not possess nuclear weapons; and,

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2005 Iran's Supreme Religious Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, issued a fatwa that the production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons are forbidden under Islam and that Iran shall never acquire these weapons; and,

WHEREAS, the U.N. Security Council has ordered that the IAEA be allowed to resume inspections in Iran and has declined to adopt a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iran for its failure to fully cooperate with the IAEA; and,

WHEREAS, the U.N. Security Council has also declared its intent to “remain seized of the matter”, which bars any individual Security Council member from taking unilateral action in the matter; and,

WHEREAS, direct diplomacy between the U.S. and Iran is perceived by many experts as the most effective means of achieving peaceful compliance from Iran, with assurances from the U.S. that Iran’s security will not be threatened being viewed as essential to the process;

WHEREAS, recent media reports disclosed some alarming misinformation deemed to be “erroneous, misleading and unsubstantiated “ by the IAEA, being disseminated by members of the Bush

administration regarding Iran, information apparently designed to mislead the American public regarding whether military action should be considered against Iran;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Amherst Representative Town Meeting implores the President and our representatives in Congress to actively:

- (1) Promote direct negotiations between the U.S. and Iran.
- (2) Offer Iran guarantees that the U.S. and the world community will not threaten its security.
- (3) Urge Iran to allow open international inspections of its nuclear program.
- (4) Urge Iran not to build nuclear weapons.
- (5) Insure that information provided to the public by this administration on the Iranian nuclear issue is accurate; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we implore the President and our representatives in Congress to restrain from any military action toward Iran;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Town Clerk send a copy of this resolution to our congressional delegation, to the President of the United States, to the Iranian ambassador to the United States, the Iranian Embassy, and the U.N. Security Council members.

Action taken on November 1, 2006.

[Motion to dismiss was defeated: Yes 53, No 76 (Tally Vote).]

ARTICLE 4. Resolution – Immediate Withdrawal of U.S. Troops From Iraq (Gray)

VOTED as amended, Yes 86; No 20 (Tally Vote) to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION FOR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM IRAQ

WHEREAS, the Town of Amherst and its citizens strongly support the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces in Iraq and recognize the sacrifices that each of them is making; and,

WHEREAS, the invasion and occupation of Iraq have fatigued our armed forces and have drained our military of its past capability to respond to crises in other parts of the world and to natural disasters in this country; and,

WHEREAS, the United States war against Iraq has thus far resulted in the death of more than 2,700 U.S. military personnel and the wounding of more than 19,000 other U.S. military personnel (-- with American casualties doubling after the revelations at Abu Ghraib--); and,

WHEREAS, according to a recent study overseen by epidemiologists at Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health, the 'excess' death toll of Iraqi men, women, and children (that is, deaths post-invasion compared to deaths pre-invasion) has reached 655,000; and,

WHEREAS, the United States invasion and occupation of Iraq has failed to promote stability and peace, resulting instead in the devastation of Iraq's physical and social infrastructure such as 60% unemployment, scarcity of clean water with only \$500 million of the \$2.2 billion appropriated for water projects having been spent, and oil and energy production being below pre-war levels; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq has created political instability that has placed Iraq on the brink of civil war with insurgent incidents increasing from 150 per week to over 700 per week in the last year; and,

WHEREAS, the United States invasion and occupation of Iraq contributes to the destabilization of the entire Middle East Region; and,

WHEREAS, the Iraqi people have the right to self-determination uninhibited by the continued presence of U.S. troops; and,

WHEREAS, the United States war against Iraq has cost the U.S. an estimated \$250 billion since the U.S. invasion in March 2003; and,

WHEREAS, of the federal funds spent on the Iraq war, \$9 billion of this will be paid by the taxpayers of Massachusetts, which money could have provided 141,346 elementary school teachers, health care for 1,395,832 people or 53,899 affordable housing units for Massachusetts residents; and,

WHEREAS, the presence of U.S. forces in Iraq has inflamed anti-American passions as evidenced by the 2004 annual State Department report which indicated a sharp increase in global terrorism; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S.'s "preemptive war" and occupation of Iraq are illegal, in direct contravention of the U.N. Charter and international law; and,

WHEREAS, the citizens of Amherst and its local elected officials have the constitutional right to petition the national government on this matter of grave concern to our community as part of the national and international debate now underway; and,

WHEREAS, the Amherst Town Meeting has previously passed resolutions against the U.S. led war in Iraq, the most recent resolution having passed in April 2005 by a vote of 110 in favor and 12 against; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Amherst Representative Town Meeting hereby expresses its opposition to the United States' continued violation of the United Nations Charter and international law by its occupation of Iraq; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Amherst Representative Town Meeting hereby implores the President and our representatives in Congress to actively:

- 1) Develop and implement a plan to begin the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, with completion in six months;
- 2) Bar the use of any future federal funding for military action in Iraq;
- 3) Reverse any steps previously taken by the U.S. to create a permanent U.S. base in Iraq and bar any future funding for a permanent U.S. presence in Iraq, and
- 4) Take all necessary steps to provide the Iraqi people the opportunity to resume effective control of their internal affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Amherst Representative Town Meeting requests that the financial resources used to prosecute the war be redirected to address urgent domestic needs such as health, education, housing, and the like; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be directed to send a copy of this resolution to our congressional delegation and to the President of the United States.

When distributing the Resolution, the Town Clerk will include a statement with the results of the vote stating the number of Town Meeting members who voted for and the number who voted against the resolution.

Action taken November 1, 2006.

[Motion to dismiss was defeated]

The business of the warrant having been completed, the meeting voted to dissolve at 10:04 p.m. on Wednesday, November 1, 2006. 145 town meeting members were checked in.

Attest:

Sandra J. Burgess

Town Clerk

RESULTS STATE ELECTION November 7, 2006

In accordance with the Warrant, the polls were opened at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m. The voters cast their ballots in their respective precincts. The results are as follows:

	1	2	3	3A	4	4A	5	6	7	8	9	9A	10	10A	TOTAL
SENATOR IN CONGRESS															
EDWARD M KENNEDY	461	830	345	88	323	94	631	1042	822	1264	626	218	323	84	7151
KENNETH G CHASE	51	94	48	13	34	5	67	140	121	184	55	17	27	8	864
Blanks	9	31	12	3	8	4	22	23	23	38	13	4	8	3	201
Write-Ins	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	3	1	3	0	1	12
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228
GOVERNOR & LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR															
HEALEY & HILLMAN	42	109	51	8	46	9	76	143	119	189	69	13	23	7	904
PATRICK & MURRAY	443	797	335	88	302	89	603	998	797	1227	581	215	320	82	6877
MIHOS & SULLIVAN	14	25	12	1	7	3	16	28	21	34	16	5	7	4	193
ROSS & ROBINSON	21	15	7	5	10	2	18	33	24	30	26	8	7	3	209
Blanks	1	9	1	1	1	0	7	3	6	8	3	1	1	0	42
Write-Ins	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228
ATTORNEY GENERAL															
MARTHA COAKLEY	437	799	338	81	308	84	594	1014	783	1247	598	212	313	81	6889
LARRY FRISOLI	49	78	41	15	35	9	71	123	119	155	61	13	28	9	806
Blanks	35	77	27	8	23	10	53	69	63	85	36	16	17	4	523
Write-Ins	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	1	0	2	10
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228

SECRETARY OF STATE

WILLIAM F GALVIN	272	603	252	70	231	78	441	742	569	884	392	165	191	70	4960
JILL E STEIN	217	266	120	28	98	13	219	375	323	489	264	56	151	18	2637
Blanks	31	84	32	5	36	11	60	86	74	116	38	19	14	7	613
Write-Ins	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	3	1	0	1	2	2	1	18
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228

TREASURER

TIMOTHY P CAHILL	322	675	294	75	261	77	491	837	672	1062	466	171	236	72	5711
JAMES O'KEEFE	145	164	64	21	57	15	146	233	195	268	167	48	94	15	1632
Blanks	54	114	48	8	47	11	81	134	99	159	61	23	26	8	873
Write-Ins	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	2	1	12
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228

AUDITOR

A JOSEPH DeNUCCI	329	679	281	70	261	69	500	872	689	1071	481	160	242	63	5767
RAND WILSON	111	108	65	25	45	20	122	170	151	201	119	50	71	21	1279
Blanks	81	167	60	9	59	14	95	162	126	215	95	32	44	11	1170
Write-Ins	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	2	1	2	0	0	1	1	12
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

JOHN W OLVER	453	825	343	89	324	85	604	1045	811	1271	621	204	325	84	7084
WILLIAM H SZYCH	52	95	50	8	37	7	79	121	122	161	58	15	22	3	830
Blanks	15	35	11	7	5	11	37	39	33	56	15	22	11	9	306
Write-Ins	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	8
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228

COUNCILLOR

MICHAEL FRANCO	37	61	32	12	28	10	57	110	88	133	39	19	25	10	661
THOMAS T MERRIGAN	372	699	293	68	257	72	515	893	687	1117	531	170	276	65	6015
MICHAEL T KOGUT	59	71	29	13	30	7	65	72	100	104	64	24	28	12	678
*Peter Vickery								2			3				5
Blanks	53	124	52	10	51	14	83	127	92	134	58	28	29	8	863
Write-Ins	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	6
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

STANLEY C ROSENBERG	464	863	365	85	325	88	629	1063	833	1326	637	202	331	81	7292
MICHAELA L LeBLANC	38	48	32	14	31	5	55	91	94	114	41	16	21	6	606
Blanks	18	44	7	5	10	10	36	52	40	48	17	24	6	8	325
Write-Ins	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	5
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

ELLEN STORY	470	835	365	94	330	91	634	1092	848	1316	635	218	324	80	7332
*Jeanne Traester	4				1		1	1							7
Blanks	45	118	41	8	31	12	81	110	114	169	56	24	31	13	853
Write-Ins	2	2	0	2	4	0	4	3	5	4	4	0	3	3	36
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ELIZABETH D

SCHEIBEL	245	430	207	61	175	60	332	586	486	762	333	138	150	61	4026
Blanks	259	507	181	38	187	35	370	591	459	698	347	92	202	29	3995
Write-Ins	17	18	18	5	4	8	18	29	22	29	15	12	6	6	207
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228

CLERK OF COURTS

HARRY JEKANOWSKI,

JR	406	710	313	87	276	85	555	941	737	1151	541	200	267	78	6347
Blanks	114	243	93	15	89	18	162	262	227	334	151	40	90	15	1853
Write-Ins	1	2	0	2	1	0	3	3	3	4	3	2	1	3	28
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228

REGISTER OF DEEDS

MARIANNE L

DONOHUE	406	709	308	87	278	86	557	950	744	1149	533	204	268	77	6356
Blanks	113	242	97	15	87	16	158	254	222	337	159	37	89	16	1842
Write-Ins	2	4	1	2	1	1	5	2	1	3	3	1	1	3	30
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228

QUESTION 1 (Food Stores to Sell Wine)

YES	214	382	176	63	172	59	296	464	390	609	280	141	159	62	3467
NO	288	547	211	39	179	35	381	703	552	822	395	79	185	31	4447
Blanks	19	26	19	2	15	9	43	39	25	58	20	22	14	3	314
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228

QUESTION 2 (Provide Voters With More Ballot Choices)

YES	265	417	177	45	121	45	307	545	406	607	329	128	173	40	3605
NO	211	442	179	53	185	42	324	559	476	728	285	76	140	49	3749
Blanks	45	96	50	6	60	16	89	102	85	154	81	38	45	7	874
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228

QUESTION 3 (Family Child Care Providers)

YES	359	615	232	63	191	55	462	801	615	891	458	158	257	61	5218
NO	127	257	128	29	130	27	167	311	270	450	174	37	75	29	2211
Blanks	35	83	46	12	45	21	91	94	82	148	63	47	26	6	799
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228

QUESTION 4 (Community Preservation Act)

YES	290	446	192	46	149	35	323	532	410	660	371	116	181	47	3798
NO	149	335	141	31	134	36	249	448	399	546	217	49	109	31	2874
Blanks	82	174	73	27	83	32	148	226	158	283	107	77	68	18	1556
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228

QUESTION 5 (End the War in Iraq)

YES	380	578	252	72	199	73	458	764	631	889	469	183	243	71	5262
NO	98	223	88	23	99	13	141	281	212	375	148	34	64	19	1818
Blanks	43	154	66	9	68	17	121	161	124	225	78	25	51	6	1148
TOTAL	521	955	406	104	366	103	720	1206	967	1489	695	242	358	96	8228

**Indicates Write-in candidate*

Pct.	Ballots Cast	Registered Voters	P.M Return Time	% Turnout
1	521	1,515	9:30	34.39
2	955	1,498	9:53	63.75
3	406	647	11:15	62.75
3A	104	478	9:55	21.76
4	366	591	9:51	61.93
4A	103	644	9:55	15.99
5	720	1,547	9:51	46.54
6	1,206	2,119	9:50	56.91
7	967	1,910	10:05	50.63
8	1,489	2,526	10:30	59.95
9	695	1,269	9:15	54.77
9A	242	992	9:55	24.40
10	358	698	9:51	51.29
10A	96	550	9:55	17.45
TOTAL	8,228	16,984		48.45%

8,228 ballots were cast, representing 48.45% of the 16,984 voters registered.

Attest:
Sandra J. Burgess
Town Clerk

RESULTS ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION March 27, 2007

In accordance with the Warrant, the polls were opened at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m. The voters cast their ballots in their respective precincts. The results were as follows:

	1	2	3	3A	4	4A	5	6	7	8	9	9A	10	10A	TOTAL
MODERATOR															
Nancy M. Gordon	67	98	36	3	31	3	111	130	133	183	109	2	61	1	968
Harrison L. Gregg	102	281	136	2	117	2	136	287	209	416	205	0	92	2	1,987
All Others	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	7
Blanks	32	49	27	1	17	0	42	68	49	98	26	1	8	0	418
TOTAL VOTE	201	429	200	6	165	5	290	486	391	697	343	3	161	3	3,380
SELECT BOARD															
Alisa V. Brewer	110	313	141	3	133	2	162	343	269	481	239	0	112	1	2,309
Gerald S. Weiss	138	232	117	3	92	2	160	277	232	393	209	2	99	2	1,958
Robie Hubley	95	133	63	4	34	2	135	150	126	237	107	2	65	2	1,155
*@Stephanie J. O'Keeffe	0	14	3	0	11	0	5	5	7	9	13	0	5	0	72
All Others	2	3	1	0	2	0	1	6	1	2	4	0	0	0	22
Blanks	57	163	75	2	58	4	117	191	147	272	114	2	41	1	1,244
TOTAL VOTE	402	858	400	12	330	10	580	972	782	1,394	686	6	322	6	6,760

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Andrew M. Churchill	125	317	144	6	138	2	165	328	254	492	232	3	99	1	2306
Chrystel D. Romero	99	168	71	2	43	4	136	169	151	227	129	1	70	3	1273
Kathleen Dequence	92	132	73	2	54	1	123	195	178	223	143	1	70	1	1288
Anderson															
*@Catherine A. Sanderson	1	8	0	0	11	0	5	20	7	23	11	0	1	0	87
All Others	0	3	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	12
Blanks	85	230	111	2	84	3	149	259	192	424	171	1	82	1	1,794
TOTAL VOTE	402	858	400	12	330	10	580	972	782	1,394	686	6	322	6	6,760

JONES LIBRARY

Kathleen Wang	110	256	112	5	96	2	180	295	247	378	215	2	108	3	2009
Nonny Burack	93	204	91	3	71	1	140	185	180	269	159	0	88	2	1486
*@Leeta L. Bailey	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	3	4	7	2	0	1	0	22
*@Gerald C. Friedman	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	11
All Others	1	3	0	0	3	2	3	2	1	3	2	0	2	0	22
Blanks	197	392	196	4	158	5	255	483	350	734	308	4	123	1	3,210
TOTAL VOTE	402	858	400	12	330	10	580	972	782	1,394	686	6	322	6	6,760

ELECTOR, OLIVER SMITH WILL

David Farnham	114	248	118	5	100	3	176	284	229	369	233	1	103	2	1985
All Others	0	1	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	10
Blanks	87	180	80	1	64	2	112	200	162	324	110	2	58	0	1,382
TOTAL VOTE	201	429	200	6	165	5	290	486	391	697	343	3	161	3	3,380

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Joan Ross Logan	111	248	121	4	99	3	173	304	227	368	221	1	107	2	1989
All Others	1	2	0	1	0	0	4	3	1	2	0	0	0	1	15
Blanks	89	179	79	1	66	2	113	179	163	324	122	2	54	0	1,373
TOTAL VOTE	201	429	200	6	165	5	290	486	391	697	343	3	161	3	3,380

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

@Larry J. Kelley	3	9	4	0	7	0	10	7	8	6	6	0	5	0	65
*@Vincent J. O'Connor	3	1	1	0	1	0	5	0	0	4	2	0	1	0	18
All Others	5	8	2	1	2	1	13	14	9	9	5	0	3	1	73
Blanks	190	411	193	5	155	4	262	465	374	678	330	3	152	2	3,224
TOTAL VOTE	201	429	200	6	165	5	290	486	391	697	343	3	161	3	3,380

@ Write-In Candidates

* Defeated

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS**Precinct I, three years (8)**

Mary V. Szala	81	*Priscilla A. Bernotas
*Lance Lucas	60	*Eric N. Nazar
Joseph A. Waskiewicz	89	Caroline G. Arnold
Mark Power	78	Nancy E. DeProsse
Randa R. Nachbar	88	Mark P. Johnson
Stephen J. King	79	

Precinct I, two years (3)

Kimberley E. Broderick	78
Robert F. Winne	85
*Layla G. Taylor	53
William Lyons Witten	94

Precinct II, three years (8)

Renee D. Moss	177	Andrew J. Steinberg
J. Lynn Griesemer	202	*Stacey D.C. Brock
*Bruce C. Carson	147	Arnold L. Alper
Eric J. Knapp	158	Robert C. Biagi
Daniel A. Feldman	177	Sharon M. Vardatira

Precinct II, two years (1)

209	Bryan C. Harvey	198
139	*Charles J. Streciwilk	15
213	*Joan C. Milam	36
188	*Sandra C. Mullin	66
148	*Adrienne Levine	55

Precinct III, three years (8)

Thomas Paul Flittie	120
Nonny Burack	106
^Andrew W. Churchill	138
Anurag Sharma	131
Leeta L. Bailey	108
@Alice H. Allen	24
@Janet Lansberry	14
@Lawrence E. O'Brien	17
@+John S. Ingram	9
@*Jeanne M. Ryan	5

Precinct III, two years (1)

120	Sarah B. Stookey
-----	------------------

Precinct III, one year (1)

2	@**Alice Allen
1	@*Erinn D. Larkin
1	@**Lawrence E. O'Brien
1	@*David P. Sackett
1	@*Woden B. Kusner
1	@#Lynne K. Weintraub

(Jeanne Ryan did not accept vacancy under 1.541 of the Amherst Town Government Act)

**Accepted write-in for three year term
#Winner of tie-breaker held on April 17, 2007

Precinct IV, three years (8)

Cheryl C. Zoll	72
Audrey Yale Smith	87
Charles Moran	110
Patricia G. Blauner	92
Michael L. Rossen	73
Gregg Edward Anderson	82
Peter Roland Blier	89
Sheilah J. Jones	76
+Steven A. Shumway	59

Precinct IV, two years (4)

98	Gregory P. Boisseau
88	Margot Shea O'Connor
87	Katharine E. Troast
84	Abigail M. Jensen

Precinct IV, one year (1)

106	George E. Ryan
-----	----------------

Precinct V, three years (8)

135	Walter J. Wolnik	Michael Joseph Mascis
114	Nina Wishengrad	Florence M. Boynton
102	Jana Lee Sorge	Larry J. Kelley
128	Christina Rose	*Richard Blake Hood
94	*Matthew Cornell	*Lee P. Gianetti
115	Frederick G. Levine	@*William S. Elsasser

Precinct V, two years (2)

119	^Chrystel D. Romero	159
125	+Margaret P. Nunnelly	106
113	Carlton C. Brose	115
69		
91		
9		

Margaret Nunnelly filled the vacancy (1.541 of the ATGA) created when Chrystel Romero was appointed to the School Committee upon Alisa Brewer's resignation from same

Precinct VI, three years (8)

267	Constance E. Kruger	Lisa Kleinholz
241	James Avery Smith	Joan Ross Logan
161	Silvia R. Brinkerhoff	Richard B. Spurgin
192	Vladimir Morales	Paul E. Drummond

256	*Colette Nadeau	142
239	*Chad M. O'Rourke	140
200		
235		

Precinct VII, three years (8)

James E. Scott	215	*Paul M. Wright
Christopher J. Hoffmann	180	Jeffrey C. Lee
Susan C. Pynchon	185	Robert L. Quinn
Janet W. Chevan	196	Isabelle M. Callahan
Arthur S. Keene	154	@*Steven J. Toutant

Precinct VIII, three years (8)

*Luke M. Rafferty	135	Pamela Crotty
*Eleanor Manire-Gatti	203	Ann E.W. Woodbridge
Eric T. Nakajima	236	Sonya R. Sofield
*Andrew W. Mason	156	*Aaron A. Hayden
*Carol D. Moskowitz	182	Fred Moseley
David D. Mullins	278	Martha Spiegelman
+Robert Todd Felton	212	Irwin Spiegelman

Precinct IX, three years (8)

Ben T. Grosscup	135	Gavin A. Andresen
Pamela S. Rooney	181	John L. Roberts
Nina Weyl	162	Amanda E. Singer
D. Joseph Bodin	156	*Robert J. Cowner
*Adam M. Siegel	104	Margaret R. Roberts
*Michael D. Chesworth	117	

Precinct X, three years (8)

Joseph F. Lynn	99
Adele G. Levine	102
Seymour Friedman	109
Patrick Robert McCarthy	88
Jonathan P. Nelms	85
Anne Sterling Bush	95
Irene J. Friedman	106
@John O. Fox	48
@*Robert E. Greeney	16

Precinct X, two years (2)

Irwin H. Friman	105
Judy L. Simpson	103

Precinct VII, one year (3)

Kevin P. Joy	192
*Irene K. Dzioba	108
Alice B. Morse	162
*Eli S. Keene	82
Jane G. Bryden	144

Precinct VIII, one year (2)

Barry L. Roberts	332
*Kerry Ana Manire	126
*Marc D. Liberatore	29
*Thomas K. Davies	100
*Charles E. Clifton	171
Lise N. Halpern	173

Precinct IX, one year (1)

Denise Renee Barberet	167
*Caitlin E. Thalken	39

Precinct X, one year (1)

*Sheila B. Rathbun	51
Stephen R. Braun	64

@ Write-In Candidates

* Defeated

+ Section 1.541 Amherst Town Government Act

^ Ex-Officio Town Meeting Member

<u>Precinct</u>	<u>Ballots Cast</u>	<u>Number Registered</u>	<u>PM Return Time</u>	<u>% Turnout</u>
1	201	1,472	9:15	13.65
2	429	1,471	9:35	29.16
3	200	628	11:10	31.85
3A	6	397	9:15	1.51
4	165	580	9:47	28.45
4A	5	528	9:15	.95
5	290	1,460	9:47	19.86
6	486	2,081	9:25	23.35
7	391	1,850	9:45	21.14
8	697	2,439	9:50	28.58

9	343	1,211	9:50	28.32
9A	3	806	9:25	.37
10	161	633	10:20	25.43
10A	3	466	9:15	.64
TOTAL	3,380	16,022	- - -	21.10

The public announcement was made at 11:10 p.m. on March 27, 2007. 3,380 ballots were cast, representing 21.10% of the 16,022 voters registered.

Attest:

Sandra J. Burgess
Town Clerk

RESULTS Special Town Election May 1, 2007

In accordance with the warrant, the polls were opened at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m. The voters cast their ballots in their respective precincts. The results were as follows:

	1	2	3	3 A	4	4A	5	6	7	8	9	9A	10	10A	TOTAL
QUESTION #1															
YES	138	301	139	1	148	1	165	38 2	278	456	257	0	114	3	2,383
NO	120	361	151	0	106	0	251	39 5	366	584	207	3	106	0	2,650
BLANKS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	258	662	290	1	254	1	416	77 8	644	1,040	465	3	220	3	5,035

Pct.	Ballots Cast	Registered Voters	P.M. Return time	% Turnout
1	258	1,468	8:50	17.57
2	662	1,475	8:50	44.88
3	290	633	9:10	45.81
3A	1	433	9:12	.23
4	254	581	8:50	43.72
4A	1	507	9:12	.20
5	416	1,454	8:50	28.61
6	778	2,082	8:50	37.37
7	644	1,855	9:30	34.72
8	1,040	2,441	9:35	42.61
9	465	1,209	8:45	38.38
9A	3	777	9:12	0.39
10	220	633	8:45	34.76
10A	3	454	9:12	0.66
TOTAL	5,035	16,002		31.46 %

5,035 ballots were cast, representing 31.46 % of the 16,002 voters registered.

Attest:
Sandra J. Burgess
Town Clerk

RESULTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 7, 10, 16, 21, 23, 31, June 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, & 20, 2007

The meeting was televised by Amherst Community Television and shown on the government Channel.

The 248th Annual Town Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Harrison Gregg at 7:40 p.m. There were 253 town meeting members. 127 checked in and a quorum was declared. The call and the return of the warrant were read by Town Clerk, Sandra J. Burgess.

The Town Moderator was sworn to the faithful performance of his duties. Town meeting members were sworn to the faithful performance of their duties.

The Moderator acknowledged the election and re-election of town officials, and asked the meeting to remember those current and former town meeting members who had died in the past year:

Current Member, Kenneth Mosakowski.

Former Members, William C. Atkins – also a member of the Amherst Select Board from 1976 – 1982; Charles Jacque, Robert McClung, Lavern Thelen, and Aaron Wilson.

Mangala Jagadeesh, H. Oldham Brooks, Janet W. Chevan, Nancy M. Gordon, James W. Pistrang, and James E. Scott, were sworn in as tellers.

Town Meeting voted to consider Article 16 at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 10, 2007

Town Meeting voted to consider Articles 8-11 at 7:35 p.m. on Thursday, May 10, 2007

Town Meeting voted to consider Articles 15 and 17 – 31 at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 21, 2007

Town Meeting voted to consider Article 7 at 7:40 p.m. on Thursday, May 10, 2007

ARTICLE 1. Reports of Boards and Committees (Select Board)

VOTED unanimously to hear only those reports of Town officers, the Finance Committee, and any other Town boards or committees which are not available in written form.

Action taken on 5/7/2007.

ARTICLE 2. Transfer of Funds – Unpaid Bills (Select Board)

DISMISSED [To see if the Town will, in accordance with Chapter 44, section 64, of the Massachusetts General Laws, appropriate and transfer a sum of money to pay unpaid bills of previous years.]

Action taken on 5/7/2007.

ARTICLE 3. Optional Tax Exemptions (Select Board)

VOTED to authorize a maximum additional exemption of up to 100 percent for taxpayers qualifying for exemption under Chapter 59, Section 5, Clauses 17D, 22, 37A, or 41C of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Action taken on 5/7/2007.

ARTICLE 4. Authorization for Compensating Balance Accounts (Select Board)

VOTED to accept the provisions of Chapter 44, section 53F of the Massachusetts General Laws, which authorize the Treasurer to enter into written agreements with banking institutions pursuant to which the Treasurer agrees to maintain funds on deposit in exchange for banking services.

Action taken on 5/7/2007.

ARTICLE 5. Approval of Land Lease for Cell Phone Tower (Select Board)

VOTED as amended to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a lease with T-Mobile, such lease to be for approximately 10,000 square feet of land owned by the Town, plus utility and equipment access thereto, located off Belchertown Road, being a portion of land described in a deed recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds Book 2116, Page 270; such lease to have an initial term of five (5) years and a maximum term of twenty (20) years; such lease to be in substantially the form proposed by the Town to allow for the installation of a multi-user telecommunications facility and related purposes.

Action taken on 5/7/2007.

ARTICLE 6. Petition – Legislation – Cell Phone (Morales)

VOTED as amended to request that our representatives to the General Court sponsor and support legislation prohibiting the use of hand-held telephones by persons while driving motor vehicles, and establishing a sufficient level of fines for violators so as to deter this dangerous behavior.

Action taken on 5/7/2007.

ARTICLE 7. Easement – Atkins Corner, Route 116 and Bay Road (Select Board)

VOTED to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase or eminent domain, temporary and permanent easements, and to dispose of excess temporary and permanent easements, for roadway construction and roadway safety improvements along a section of Route 116, a.k.a. West Street and a section of Bay Road; all in accordance with a plan entitled “Preliminary Plan for Reconstruction and Related Work on Rt. 116 (West St.-Atkins) in the Town of Amherst” prepared by Camp Dresser and McKee (25% submission) January, 2007 which is on file in the office of the Town Clerk. Easement areas are shown in Table 1 entitled “Parcel Summary Sheet”, which is attached to this Warrant and fully incorporated herein.

Action taken 5/10/2007.

ARTICLE 8. Zoning Bylaw – Farmstand Amendment (Planning Board)

VOTED unanimously as amended to amend Section 3.312 of the Zoning Bylaw, by deleting the ~~lined out~~ language and adding the language in ***bold italics***, as follows:

3.312 Salesroom or farm stand for the sale of nursery,
garden or other agricultural produce (including
articles of home manufacture from such produce).

Standards & Conditions

The farm shall be a minimum of five acres in size for both
Class I and Class II facilities.

3.3120 Class I

R-O

R-LD R-N R-VC R-G R-F B-G B-L B-VC COM OP LI PRP FPC

SPR SPR SPR SPR SPR SPR SPR SPR SPR SPR SPR SPR SPR

Standards & Conditions

~~For produce grown during either June, July, August & September of every year, or during the harvest season of the crop(s) raised on land of the owner or lessee, the majority at least 25 percent of the such products sold for sale, based on either gross sales dollars or volume, shall be have been produced by the owner, or lessee or other lawful occupant of the land on which the facility is located or made from the products so produced~~ For produce generated without regard to seasons, at least 25% of such products for sale, based on either gross annual sales or annual volume, have been produced by the owner or lessee of the land on which the facility is located, and at least an additional 50 percent of such products for sale, based upon either gross annual sales or annual volume, have been produced in Massachusetts on land, other than that on which the facility is located, used for the primary purpose of commercial agriculture, aquaculture, silviculture, horticulture (including the growing and keeping of nursery stock and the sale thereof), floriculture or viticulture, whether by the owner or lessee of the land on which the facility is located or by another, all as provided for under MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 3, as amended.

3.3121 Class II

R-O

R-LD R-N R-VC R-G R-F B-G B-L B-VC COM OP LI PRP FPC

SP SP SP SP SP SPR SPR SPR SPR SP SP SP SP

Standards & Conditions

~~For produce grown during June, July, August & September of every year, or during the harvest season of the primary crop(s) raised on land of the owner or lessee, at least 25% 15% of the products sold for sale shall be produced by the owner, or lessee or other lawful occupant of the land on which the facility is located or made from products so produced,~~ For produce generated without regard to seasons, at least 15% of such products for sale, based on either gross annual sales or annual volume, have been produced by the owner or lessee of the land on which the facility is located, and at least an additional 50 percent of such products for sale, based upon either gross annual sales or annual volume, have been produced in Massachusetts on land, other than that on which the facility is located, used for the primary purpose of commercial agriculture, aquaculture, silviculture, horticulture (including the growing and keeping of nursery stock and the sale thereof), floriculture or viticulture, whether by the owner or lessee of the land on which the facility is located or by another.

Action taken on 5/10/2007.

ARTICLE 9. Memorandum Zoning Bylaw - Accessory Farmstands (Planning Board)

VOTED unanimously to refer back to the Planning Board and Agricultural Commission for further study. [To see if the Town will add the following new language under Section 5.090 of the Zoning Bylaw, and

renumber the existing remaining sections in order, such that existing Section 5.090, Farm Conference Center, becomes Section 5.091, and existing Section 5.091, Farm Stand Restaurant, becomes new Section 5.092:

5.090 Accessory Farm Stand

The Planning Board may authorize, by the issuance of a Site Plan Review approval, the use of a portion of a farm property as an accessory farm stand in the R-LD, R-O, and R-N Districts, and in those portions of the PRP District under active agricultural use as of the date of application, provided that:

- 5.0900 The accessory farm stand use shall be located on a parcel of land at least two (2) acres in size. Any farm stand located on a farm parcel of five (5) acres or more shall be considered a principal use and shall be regulated under Section 3.312 of this Bylaw.
- 5.0901 An accessory farm stand shall be directly related to and incidental to an agricultural, residential or other principal use on the property where it is located. During June, July, August, and September of every year, or during the harvest season of the crop(s) raised on land of the owner or lessee, a majority of products sold shall be produced by the owner, lessee or other lawful occupant of the land on which the accessory farm stand is located, or made from the products so produced.
- 5.0902 There shall be continuous street frontage of at least 120 feet on that portion of the property where any accessory farm stand is to be located and vehicle access is to be provided.
- 5.0903 No permanent buildings or permanently sited structures shall be associated with the accessory farm stand use, except that permanent farm buildings or structures—barns, sheds, greenhouses, etc.—already in existence as of [insert the date of the TM vote] may be so used, so long as the predominant use of such existing structures remains for other agricultural purposes. All other accessory farm stand structures, including display structures and all associated signs, shall be seasonal, temporary, and mobile, and shall be removed within two weeks of the end of the effective season of the stand. The extent of the season for the accessory farm stand shall be clearly indicated as part of the management plan.
- 5.0904 Parking and circulation for an accessory farm stand shall be provided as required under this Bylaw. Parking for such a use shall be located at least fifty feet (50') from all property lines and shall be screened from abutters.
- 5.905 Farm, conference centers, and farm stand restaurants under Sections 5.091 and 5.092 shall not be permitted as accessory uses to an accessory farm stand under this section, but shall only be permitted as accessory to a farm stand permitted as a Principal use under Section 3.312.]

Action taken on 5/10/2007.

ARTICLE 10. Zoning Bylaw – Flood Prone Conservancy (FPC) Amendments (Flood Prone Conservancy Task Force)

VOTED by a declared two-thirds vote to amend Sections 3.316 of the Zoning Bylaw, as follows:

- A. Amend the permit requirement in the FPC District for Section 3.316, Surface water impoundment, flood retention ponds, or other surface water storage use, from Special Permit (SP) to Site Plan Review (SPR) and add the following new Standards and Conditions:

Any use proposed under this section shall abide by all applicable local, state, and federal regulations governing environmental, flood-related, structural, and safety aspects of the proposed use and its associated structures and site alterations, and all applicable permits governing dams and surface water impoundments shall be obtained and maintained as current. Failure to abide by said regulations or to obtain and keep current all required permits shall result in the voiding of any permit issued under this section and shall be considered a violation under Section 11.4 of this Bylaw.

Action taken on 5/10/2007.

Town Meeting voted to postpone consideration of Article 32 until after Article 33

At 9:58 p.m. on May 10, 2007, the meeting voted to adjourn to Wednesday, May 16, 2007 at 7:35 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 191 town meeting members were checked in.

ARTICLE 11. Petition – Zoning Bylaw – Subsidized Housing Inventory (O'Connor)

VOTED to refer this article to the Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee.

["To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 15.10 of the Amherst Zoning Bylaw by adding the underlined words as follows:

Section 15.10 All residential development requiring a Special Permit and resulting in additional new dwelling units shall provide affordable housing units countable for the purposes of the Commonwealth's 40B Subsidized Housing Inventory or its successor at the following minimum rates:"]

Action taken 6/18/2007.

At 10:28 p.m. on June 18, 2007, the meeting voted to adjourn to Wednesday, June 20, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 180 town meeting members were checked in.

ARTICLE 12. Bylaw Amendment - Public Shade Trees (Public Shade Tree Committee)

VOTED to refer back to the Public Shade Tree Committee

[To see if the Town will amend the General By-Laws of the Town of Amherst by adding the following new section under Article II, General Regulations, Conduct In or On Public Ways or Places:

PUBLIC SHADE TREES

Replacement of Public Shade Trees. Any private individual, firm, or corporation, or fee-funded agency of the Town of Amherst that intends to remove any tree that is within the jurisdiction of the Tree Warden, shall complete and submit an application to the Tree Warden and shall post a bond with the town to insure that after the completion of the project all trees removed, destroyed or severely damaged shall be removed and replaced at the expense of the permittee. The total caliper of all trees planted in the course of restoration shall in no event be less than the total DBH of all trees removed. Replacement location and species selection shall be made with 2.5 to 6 inch caliper trees as directed by the Tree Warden. The replacement shall be made in the spring or fall season, as determined by the Tree Warden. The amount of bond shall be determined by the town and shall be sufficient to cover the cost of purchasing and planting replacement trees should the permittee fail to do so.]
Action taken on 5/7/2007.

ARTICLE 13. Name Change - Solid Waste Committee (Solid Waste Committee)

VOTED to change the name of the Solid Waste Committee to "Recycling and Refuse Management Committee."

Action taken on 5/7/2007.

ARTICLE 14. Sister City – Town of Nyeri, Kenya (Select Board)

VOTED YES 89, NO 70 as amended to form a Sister City relationship with the town of Nyeri, Kenya to promote social, cultural, and educational exchange for the benefit of both communities provided that there is no expenditure of Town funds and further provided a Sister City Committee be appointed by the Select Board to undertake all activities related to the sister city.

Action taken on 5/7/2007.

At 10:19 p.m. on May 7, 2007, the meeting voted to adjourn to Thursday, May 10, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 209 town meeting members were checked in.

The May 16, 2007 session, adjourned from May 10, 2007, was called to order by the Town Moderator, Harrison Gregg, at 8:05 p.m. 127 town meeting members were checked in.

Ralph P. Hill was sworn in as a teller.

ARTICLE 15. FY 07 Budget Amendments (Finance Committee)

DISMISSED [A. To see if the Town will amend the budget voted under Article 26 of the 2006 Annual Town Meeting (FY 2007 Operating Budget) to transfer sums of money between General Government, Public Safety, Public Works, Planning, Conservation, and Inspections, and Community Services accounts to balance the FY 2007 Fiscal Year.

B. To see if the Town will amend the action taken under Article 27 of the 2006 Annual Town Meeting (Reserve Fund) and appropriate and transfer a sum of money from Free Cash in the Undesignated Fund Balance of the General Fund.]

Action taken 5/16/2007

The May 10, 2007 session, adjourned from May 7, 2007, was called to order by the Town Moderator, Harrison Gregg, at 7:45 p.m. 128 town meeting members were checked in.

Town Meeting voted to postpone Article 11 until after Article 31, and Article 33 until after Article 11.

ARTICLE 16. Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Amendment (Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee)

VOTED to approve following the existing Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Agreement for allocating the total amount to be contributed by each member town of the District for Fiscal Year 2008 as required by Section VI of the Regional Agreement.

Action taken on 5/10/2007

The May 21, 2007 session, adjourned from May 16, 2007, was called to order by the Town Moderator, Harrison Gregg, at 7:55 p.m. 127 town meeting members were checked in.

Nonny Burack and Florence Boynton were sworn in as tellers.

ARTICLE 17. FY 2008 Operating Budget (Finance Committee)

VOTED to adopt a comprehensive operating budget for the ensuing year and raise and appropriate money therefore.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

VOTED as amended that the Town appropriate \$5,755,139 for General Government, that the salary of the Moderator be fixed at \$100, that of the Select Board at \$300 each, that of the Elector under the Oliver Smith Will at \$20, and that to meet such appropriation \$5,641,318 be raised by taxation and \$113,821 be transferred from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved For Appropriation Account.

Action taken on 5/21/2007

At 10:16 p.m. on May 21, 2007, the meeting voted to adjourn to Wednesday, May 23, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 218 town meeting members were checked in.

The May 23, 2007 session, adjourned from May 21, 2007 was called to order by the Town Moderator, Harrison Gregg, at 7:43 p.m. 127 town meeting members were checked in.

PUBLIC SAFETY

VOTED to appropriate \$7,891,970 for Public Safety and that to meet such appropriation \$6,386,180 be raised by taxation and \$1,505,790 be transferred from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account.

Action taken on 5/23/2007.

PUBLIC WORKS

VOTED unanimously to raise and appropriate \$1,690,501 for Public Works.
Action taken 5/23/2007.

At 10:01 p.m. on May 23, 2007, the meeting voted to adjourn to Thursday, May 31, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 203 town meeting members were checked in.

The May 31, 2007 session, adjourned from May 23, 2007, was called to order by the Town Moderator, Harrison Gregg, at 7:45 p.m. 126 town meeting members were checked in.

Jeffrey C. Lee was sworn in as a teller.

PLANNING/CONSERVATION/INSPECTIONS

VOTED to raise and appropriate \$871,881 for Planning/Conservation/Inspections.
Action taken 5/31/2007.

At 10:52 p.m. on May 31, 2007, the meeting voted to adjourn to Monday, June 4, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 201 Town Meeting Members were checked in.

The June 6, 2007 session, adjourned from June 4, 2007, was called to order by the Town Moderator, Harrison Gregg, at 8:46 p.m. 126 town meeting members were checked in.

A motion was made to reconsider the Regional Schools portion of the Operating Budget. A further motion was made to postpone consideration of the motion to reconsider until just prior to consideration of Article 31. The motion to postpone reconsideration passed with a standing vote: YES 104; NO 69. Town Meeting resumed discussion of Article 17 – Community Services – Leisure Services and Pools.

At 10:39 p.m. on June 6, 2007, the meeting voted to adjourn to Monday, June 11, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 185 town meeting members were checked in.

The June 11, 2007 session, adjourned from June 6, 2007, was called to order by the Town Moderator, Harrison Gregg, at 7:40 p.m. 126 town meeting members were checked in.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

VOTED to raise and appropriate \$1,743,604 for Community Services.
Action taken on 6/11/2007.

DEBT SERVICE

VOTED unanimously to appropriate \$1,491,359 for payment of the Town's General Fund indebtedness, and to meet such appropriation \$1,447,693 be raised by taxation and \$43,666 be transferred from the Community Preservation Fund Balance.
Action taken on 6/11/2007.

At 10:04 p.m. on June 11, 2007 the meeting voted to adjourn to Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 186 town meeting members were checked in.

The June 13, 2007 session, adjourned from June 11, 2007, was called to order by the Town Moderator, Harrison Gregg, at 7:46 p.m. 169 town meeting members were checked in.

Town Meeting voted to consider Articles 27 and 28 after Article 32.
Peter J. Shea was sworn in as a teller.

LIBRARY SERVICES

VOTED to approve the Library Services operating budget of \$2,097,199 and that the Town raise and appropriate \$1,461,162 as its share of that budget.

Action taken on 6/13/2007.

The June 4, 2007 session, adjourned from May 31, 2007, was called to order by the Town Moderator, Harrison Gregg, at 7:39 p.m. 204 town meeting members were checked in.

Town Meeting voted to postpone further discussion of the Community Services budget, until after discussion of the Elementary and Regional School budgets.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

VOTED to raise and appropriate \$19,456,715 for the Amherst Elementary Schools.

Action taken 6/4/2007.

REGIONAL SCHOOLS

VOTED to approve the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District operating and capital budget of \$27,567,000 and that the Town raise and appropriate \$12,385,188 as its share of that budget.

Action taken 6/18/2007.

(Town Meeting voted to reconsider the action taken on June 4, 2007, under Article 17 to approve the Regional School District budget and to appropriate the Town's share of that budget.)

At 10:12 p.m. on June 4, 2007, the meeting voted to adjourn to Wednesday, June 6, 2007 at 7:35 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 204 Town Meeting Members were checked in.

WATER FUND

VOTED unanimously to appropriate \$3,907,453 for the Water Fund and that to meet such appropriation \$3,800,000 be made available from Water Fund revenues of the current year and \$107,453 be transferred from Water Fund Surplus.

Action taken on 6/13/2007.

SEWER FUND

VOTED unanimously to appropriate \$3,656,878 for the Sewer Fund and that to meet such appropriation \$3,656,878 be made available from Sewer Fund revenues of the current year.

Action taken on 6/13/2007.

SOLID WASTE

VOTED unanimously to appropriate \$523,251 for the Solid Waste Fund and that to meet such appropriation \$480,300 be made available from Solid Waste Fund revenues of the current year and \$42,951 be transferred from Solid Waste Fund Surplus.

Action taken on 6/13/2007.

TRANSPORTATION FUND

VOTED to appropriate \$907,453 for the Transportation Fund and that to meet such appropriation \$907,453 be made available from Transportation Fund revenues of the current year.

Action taken on 6/13/2007.

ARTICLE 18. Retirement Assessment (Select Board)

VOTED unanimously to raise and appropriate \$2,920,979 for the Hampshire County Retirement System assessment.
Action taken on 6/13/2007.

ARTICLE 19. Reserve Fund (Finance Committee)

VOTED unanimously to raise and appropriate \$100,000 for the Reserve Fund for FY 2008.

Action taken on 6/13/2007.

ARTICLE 20. Capital Program - Chapter 90 (Joint Capital Planning Committee)

VOTED unanimously to authorize the expenditure of \$500,000 of Chapter 90 funds for qualifying purposes and further authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement of these funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Action taken on 6/13/2007.

ARTICLE 21. Capital Program – Equipment (Joint Capital Planning Committee)

VOTED to raise and appropriate \$1,095,378 to purchase, repair, and/or install new or replacement equipment.

Action taken on 6/13/2007.

At 10:16 p.m. on June 13, 2007, the meeting voted to adjourn to Monday, May 18, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 169 town meeting members were checked in.

The June 18, 2007 session, adjourned from June 13, 2007, was called to order by the Town Moderator, Harrison Gregg, at 7:44 p.m. 126 town meeting members were checked in.

Robert Lyman Phillips was sworn in as constable.

Daniel A. Feldman was sworn in as teller.

ARTICLE 22. Capital Program - Buildings and Facilities (Joint Capital Planning Committee)

VOTED to raise and appropriate \$154,000 to repair and/or improve buildings and facilities.

Action taken 6/18/2007.

ARTICLE 23. Capital Program - Bond Authorization (Joint Capital Planning Committee)

A. VOTED by a declared two-thirds vote to appropriate \$675,000 for extraordinary repairs to the exterior of Town Hall and that to meet such appropriation the Treasurer be authorized to borrow \$675,000 in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7, Clause (3A).

B. VOTED by a declared two-thirds vote to appropriate \$80,000 for handicapped access and interior improvements to the East Street School and that to meet such appropriation the Treasurer be authorized to borrow \$80,000 in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7, Clause (3A).

Action taken 6/18/2007.

ARTICLE 24. Community Preservation Act – Affordable Housing (Community Preservation Act Committee)

VOTED to appropriate \$155,000 for the provision of Affordable Housing as detailed below and to meet such appropriation transfer \$155,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Three deferred payment loans for low and moderate income households to purchase homes in Amherst. | \$150,000 |
| 2. Fee for management of the deferred payment loan program | 5,000 |

and, further, that the Town approve the creation of a revolving fund, pursuant to Mass. Gen. Laws c. 44, §53E½ and any other authority, into which the proceeds from the loans will be deposited and used for future deferred payment loans to be administered by the Town of Amherst.
Action taken 6/18/2007.

ARTICLE 25. Community Preservation Act – Historic Preservation (Community Preservation Act Committee)

VOTED as amended to appropriate \$101,100 for the following historic preservation projects and to meet such appropriation transfer \$101,100 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance:

West Cemetery –Town Tomb Engineering Study	\$ 5,000
Historic Document Conservation (Special Collections of the Jones Library & Town Clerk)	\$ 10,000
575 North East Street (Kimball Farm Compensation)	\$ 25,600
Interpretive Signs (East Village District)	\$ 10,000
Interpretive Publications (East Village District)	\$ 3,000
Historic Register District Nominations Bay Road Corridor & Outlying Historic Buildings)	\$ 10,000
Archeological Site Surveys (Bay Road Intersection)	\$ 7,500
State Grant Match (MHC Survey & Planning)	\$ 20,000
Historic Preservation Restrictions (Appraisals & Surveys)	\$ 10,000

Action taken 6/18/2007.

ARTICLE 26. Community Preservation Act – Open Space (Community Preservation Act Committee)

VOTED to appropriate \$15,000 from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds for appraisals and surveys to support the purchase of Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR's), Conservation Restrictions (CR's) and fee acquisitions of land.
Action taken 6/18/2007.

ARTICLE 27. Community Preservation Act – Agricultural Preservation Restriction – North Amherst
(Community Preservation Act Committee)

A. VOTED to appropriate \$90,000 from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds for the purchase of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction in North Amherst. (Map 4B, Parcel 6 and Map 5A, Parcel 131).

B. VOTED by a declared two-thirds vote to appropriate \$360,000 for the purchase of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction in North Amherst (Map 4B, Parcel 6 and Map 5A, Parcel 131) and to meet such appropriation accept gifts, bequests, and grants from individuals, groups, corporations and, further, authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of any grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 6A.

C. VOTED to authorize the Select Board to acquire an Agricultural Preservation Restriction in North Amherst (Map 4B, Parcel 6 and Map 5A, Parcel 131) and, upon the tender of a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the Agricultural Preservation Program, to authorize the Select Board to convey an interest in such Agricultural Preservation Restriction to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be held in common with the town.

Action taken 6/20/2007.

ARTICLE 28. Community Preservation Act – Agricultural Preservation Restriction – South Amherst
(Community Preservation Act Committee)

VOTED unanimously to refer this article to the Community Preservation Act Committee

[A. To see if the Town will appropriate \$50,000 from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds for the purchase of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction in South Amherst.

(Map 23B, Parcel 30).

B. To see if the Town will appropriate an additional sum of money for the purchase of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction in South Amherst (Map 23B, Parcel 30), and to meet such appropriation accept gifts, bequests, and grants from individuals, groups, corporations and, further, authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of any grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

C. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to acquire an Agricultural Preservation Restriction in South Amherst (Map 23B, Parcel 30) and, upon the tender of a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the Agricultural Preservation Program, to authorize the Select Board to convey an interest in such Agricultural Preservation Restriction to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be held in common with the town.]

Action taken 6/20/2007

ARTICLE 29. Petition – Resolution – Social Out-reach Worker (Nelms)

VOTED to refer this article to the Community Development Committee

[“Whereas: the poor and disabled are being under-served by the town of Amherst.

Be It Resolved: that Amherst Town Meeting raise and appropriate \$9,000 for the purpose of hiring a part-time social out-reach worker.”]

Action taken 6/18/2007.

ARTICLE 30. Stabilization Fund (Finance Committee)

DISMISSED [To see if the Town will raise and appropriate a sum of money to the Stabilization Fund.]

Action taken 6/18/2007.

ARTICLE 31. Free Cash (Finance Committee)

VOTED to appropriate and transfer \$237,893 from Free Cash in the Undesignated Fund Balance of the General Fund to balance the 2008 Fiscal Year.

Action taken 6/18/2007.

At 10:28 p.m. on June 18, 2007, the meeting voted to adjourn to Wednesday, June 20, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 180 town meeting members were checked in.

The June 20, 2007 session, adjourned from June 18, 2007, was called to order by the Town Moderator, Harrison Gregg, at 7:50 p.m. 126 town meeting members were checked in.

ARTICLE 32. Petition – Special Act – Abolish the Amherst Redevelopment Authority (O’Connor)

DISMISSED [“To see if the town will request that the Select Board file with the General Court a special act abolishing the Amherst Redevelopment Authority and distributing to existing town committees any necessary Authority functions.”]

Action taken 6/20/2007.

ARTICLE 33. Petition – Bylaw Amendment –Energy Conservation by Maintaining the Night Sky
(O’Connor)

DEFEATED, YES 52: NO 102

[“To see if the town will vote to amend its General Bylaws by inserting the following bylaw in the appropriate location:

Achieving Energy Conservation by Maintaining the Night Sky

1. Business or Commercial Lighting. Business and commercial enterprises and municipal buildings shall not after August 31, 2008, maintain lighted signs or any lighting directed toward or on the exterior of any building after 11

pm or one hour after closing, whichever is later, other than fully shielded lighting required to light an exterior entrance or the portion of its parking area necessary for security or nighttime use by employees;

2. Residential Lighting

Residential structures or assemblages of residential structures of four (4) or more units not owner occupied shall by August 31, 2010, fully shield all external lighting.

3. Definition. Fully shielded shall mean that: a) the source of illumination, whether a bulb or other electronic device, shall not be visible from outside the property line, and, b) no direct illumination from any lighting device shall be visible from the vertical to an area 120 degrees below the vertical.

4. Penalties. Each violation shall be \$100 per day or at the limit for such offenses, whichever is the lesser. Each day shall count as a separate violation. Violations shall be ticketed and enforced as municipal civil offenses.”]

Action taken 6/20/2007.

ARTICLE 34. Petition – Special Act – Resident Aliens (Morales)

VOTED YES 154; NO 22 to authorize the Select Board to file with the legislature a request for a special act to authorize local voting rights for all categories of permanent resident aliens residing in Amherst, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section one of chapter fifty-one of the General Laws, or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, resident aliens eighteen years of age or older and who reside in the town of Amherst may, upon application, have their names entered on list of voters, established by the town clerk, for the town of Amherst and may thereafter vote in any election for local offices and local ballot questions.

SECTION 2. The Select Board of Amherst is authorized to formulate regulations and guidelines to implement the purpose of this act.

SECTION 3. Nothing in this act shall be construed to confer upon permanent resident aliens the right to vote for any state or federal office or any state or federal ballot question.”

Action taken 5/16/2007

ARTICLE 35. Petition – Resolution – Public Accountability for WFCR (Lee)

VOTED YES 91; NO 77 as amended to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY FOR WFCR

(The following language, which was not included in the petition, but attached thereto, is included for the information of Town Meeting.)

WHEREAS, WFCR 88.5 FM is a public radio station broadcasting from and licensed to the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

WHEREAS, in January 2007 WFCR

1. Eliminated 2 hours of *Tertulia!* (a locally produced program on Latin American culture).
2. Canceled *Afropop Worldwide* (a program presenting music and culture of the African Diaspora).
3. Canceled *Valley Folk* (a locally produced folk music program running for more than 25 years that actively promoted local performers and venues).
4. Canceled *Thistle and Shamrock* (a Celtic music program).

WHEREAS, WFCR replaced cut programs with additional classical music and jazz, creating a schedule with 65 hours of classical music and 21 hours of jazz per week.

WHEREAS, WFCR's programming changes have reduced the diversity of genres and cultural representation, diminished local content, and were made without inviting review or input by the WFCR listening area.

WHEREAS, WFCR has acted inconsistent with its mission "... to provide the area with diverse news, information, music and cultural programs ..."

WHEREAS, WFCR receives a portion of its funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

WHEREAS, all privately-owned CPB-funded public radio stations and many state-owned stations have representative Community Advisory Boards which hold meetings open to the public.

WHEREAS, the community is not well-represented by WFCR's current Advisory Committee, and the WFCR Advisory Committee does not advise on programming.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Amherst Representative Town Meeting hereby implores the University of Massachusetts to actively

1. Transform the existing WFCR Advisory Committee into a Community Advisory Board that
 - a. Represents the ethnic, cultural and geographic diversity of the listening area.
 - b. Has an open application process for board members.
 - c. Is empowered to review and influence WFCR programming decisions.
 - d. Holds well-publicized open meetings and allows public access to meeting minutes.
2. Reconsider 2007 WFCR programming cuts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the Select Board to urge the Town Manager to present Amherst Town Meeting's position to the University of Massachusetts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Deval Patrick, Federal Communications Commission Chair Kevin J. Martin, Corporation for Public Broadcasting Chair Cheryl Halpern, U.S. Senators Edward Kennedy and John Kerry, U.S. Representative John Olver, Massachusetts State Senator Stanley Rosenberg, Massachusetts State Representative Ellen Story, University of Massachusetts President Jack M. Wilson, University of Massachusetts Chancellor John Lombardi, Vice Provost for University Outreach Sharon Fross, and WFCR General Manager Martin Miller."

Action taken 5/16/2007

ARTICLE 36. Petition – Village Park Apartments - Public Health (Jakus)

VOTED unanimously to refer this article to the Board of Health

["To Institute a public health ruling in Village Park Apts. (VP), East Pleasant Street, to provide for no smoking in apartments and within 1,000 feet of the buildings. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) the Federal governing body of VP has already advised, in writing, that the VP Management Company must comply with local ordinances, such an ordinance would provide clean air plus a reduced risk of fire to our beautiful, nationally recognized architecture. There is legal precedence for this request in other public and private housing complexes. Info on this precedence is available thru the sponsor on request."]
Action taken 5/16/2007

ARTICLE 37. Acceptance of Chapter 39, Section 23D of the Massachusetts General Laws – Board Member's Absence of One Session May Not Cause Disqualification (Conservation)

DISMISSED [To see if the Town will vote to accept, for all adjudicatory hearings held by all Town boards, committees or commissions, the provisions of Mass. Gen. Laws c 39, section 23D, which provide that a member of a board, committee or commission holding an adjudicatory hearing shall not be disqualified from voting in the matter solely due to the member's absence from one session of such hearing, provided that the member examines all evidence received at the missed session, including any audio or video recording or transcript of the missed session and signs a written certification of such examination of all the evidence.]

Action taken on 5/16/2007

ARTICLE 38. Special Act and Transfer of Control – Olympia Drive (Select Board)

DISMISSED [A. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for a Special Act to remove from the provisions of Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution and to allow to be used for affordable housing or general municipal purposes a certain parcel of land located on Olympia Drive, Amherst, Massachusetts, which parcel is the northwestern portion of the land taken pursuant to an Order of Taking dated July 13, 1987, and recorded in the Hampshire Registry of Deeds in Book 3018, Page 309, also being a portion of Assessors Map 8D, Parcel 20, and containing 11.9 acres, more or less.

B. To see if the Town will transfer from the care and custody of the Select Board to the formal management and control of the Conservation Commission under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 8C a portion of a certain parcel of land located on Olympia Drive, Amherst, Massachusetts, which parcel is the southern and eastern portion of the land taken pursuant to an Order of Taking dated July 13, 1987, and recorded in the Hampshire Registry of Deeds in Book 3018, Page 309, also being a portion of Assessors Map 8D, Parcel 20, and containing 16 acres, more or less.]

Action taken 5/16/2007.

(This article was placed on a warrant for a Special Town Meeting called for May 16, 2007)

ARTICLE 39. Petition – Commemorative Flags (Kelley)

DEFEATED YES 41; NO 96 [To see if the town will strongly urge the Select Board to allow the 29 commemorative flags to fly downtown (at half-staff) every 9/11 for as long as the Republic stands to commemorate the most devastating attack in our history.”]

Action taken 5/16/2007.

ARTICLE 40. Petition – Bylaw - Open Meeting Law Violations (Kelley)

DISMISSED [“To see if the Town will, in the interest of transparent government, enact a bylaw providing for civil fines of \$50 for the first offense, \$100 for the second, and \$500 for the third offense of any town official – appointed or elected – found in violation of the Open Meeting Law.”]

Action taken on 5/16/2007.

At 10:32 p.m. on May 16, 2007, the meeting voted to adjourn to Monday, May 21, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School. 187 town meeting members were checked in.

The business of the warrant having been completed, the meeting voted to dissolve at 9:50 p.m. on June 20, 2007. 164 town meeting members were checked in.

Attest:

Sandra J. Burgess
Town Clerk

**RESULTS
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
May 16, 2007**

The meeting was televised by Amherst Community Television and shown on the Government Channel.

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Harrison Gregg at 7:44 p.m. There were 253 town meeting members. 127 checked in and a quorum was declared. The call and the return of the warrant were read by the Town Clerk, Sandra J. Burgess.

ARTICLE 1. Special Act and Transfer of Control – Olympia Drive (Select Board)

VOTED unanimously to:

A. Authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for a Special Act to remove from the provisions of Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution and to allow to be used for affordable housing or general municipal purposes a certain parcel of land located on Olympia Drive, Amherst, Massachusetts, which parcel is the northwestern portion of the land taken pursuant to an Order of Taking dated July 13, 1987, and recorded in the Hampshire Registry of Deeds in Book 3018, Page 309, also being a portion of Assessors Map 8D, Parcel 20, and containing 11.9 acres, more or less.

B. Transfer from the care and custody of the Select Board to the formal management and control of the Conservation Commission under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 8C a portion of a certain parcel of land located on Olympia Drive, Amherst, Massachusetts, which parcel is the southern and eastern portion of the land taken pursuant to an Order of Taking dated July 13, 1987, and recorded in the Hampshire Registry of Deeds in Book 3018, Page 309, also being a portion of Assessors Map 8D, Parcel 20, and containing 16 acres, more or less.

Action taken on 5/16/2007

The business of the warrant having been completed, the meeting voted to dissolve at 8:04 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16, 2007. 186 town meeting members were checked in.

Attest:

Sandra J. Burgess
Town Clerk

**RESULTS
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
June 6, 2007**

The meeting was televised by Amherst Community Television and shown on the Government Channel.

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Harrison Gregg at 7:45 p.m. There were 251 town meeting members. 126 checked in and a quorum was declared. The call and the return of the warrant were read by the Town Clerk, Sandra J. Burgess.

ARTICLE 1. FY 07 Budget Amendments (Finance Committee)

A. VOTED to amend the action taken under Article 26 of the 2006 Annual Town Meeting – Fiscal Year 2007 Operating Budget, by increasing the appropriation for General Government by \$72,800, and to meet such increased appropriation by decreasing the appropriations for the following accounts by \$72,800: Planning, Conservation, and Inspections by \$34,800 and Debt Service by \$38,000.

B. VOTED to amend the action taken under Article 27 of the 2006 Annual Town Meeting – Reserve Fund, by increasing the appropriation by \$50,000, and to meet such increased appropriation transfer \$50,000 from Free Cash in the Undesignated Fund Balance of the General Fund to the Reserve Fund.

Action taken on 6/6/2007

ARTICLE 2. Petition - Cherry Hill Golf Course Privatization (Larry Kelley)

DEFEATED [“To see if the town will strongly urge the Selectboard to strongly urge the town manager to accept the recent bid of Niblick Management for privatization of the Cherry Hill Golf Course with a new condition allowing for a three year contract; and if Niblick is no longer interested, to reissue the new RFP (with the three year provision) before September 1, 2007”.]

Action taken on 6/6/2007.

The business of the warrant having been completed, the meeting voted to dissolve at 8:46 p.m. on Wednesday, June 6, 2007. 182 town meeting members were checked in.

Attest:

Sandra J. Burgess
Town Clerk

PRECINCT 5

A precinct member meeting was held in accordance with section 1.5422 of the Amherst Town Government Act on June 25, 2007 in the Large Activity Room, Bangs Community Center, for the purpose of filling one (1) vacancy in the town meeting membership in Precinct 5.

The Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. James Oldham Brooks was elected Chair, and Leo C. Maley III was elected Clerk. The Chair and the Clerk conducted the meeting and certified the following results:

Darryl D. Connolly 11
Richard Blake Hood 6

James C. Kelly 1

Darryl D. Connolly of 49 Northampton Road was elected to fill one vacancy in Precinct 5 town meeting membership until the next annual town election.

Attest:

Sandra J. Burgess
Town Clerk

PRECINCT 8

A precinct member meeting was held in accordance with section 1.5422 of the Amherst Town Government Act on June 25, 2007 in the Large Activity Room, Bangs Community Center, for the purpose of filling one (1) vacancy in the town meeting membership in Precinct 8.

The Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Mary Streeter was elected Chair, and Robert Lyman Phillips was elected Clerk. The Chair and the Clerk conducted the meeting and certified the following results:

Eleanor R. Manire-Gatti	11	Aaron A. Hayden	5
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Eleanor R. Manire-Gatti of 53 Iduna Lane was elected to fill one vacancy in Precinct 8 town meeting membership until the next annual town election.

Attest:

Sandra J. Burgess
Town Clerk